

Hafa Adai!

Man seeks to withdraw guilty plea. PAGE 3
3 candidates are out of the Nov. election. PAGE 5

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Torres to Kilili: It is your job to do what is right for our people

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has come out with a statement of support for better immigration status for the CNMI's long-term workers but also criticized Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for alleged inaction on the matter in the U.S. Congress.



Torres

In a letter to Sablan dated Aug. 9, 2018, Torres sharply criticized Sablan for allegedly failing to act on previous bills that would have provided better status to foreign workers.

"As our current delegate to the U.S.

RELATED NEWS

► 'It's never too late to work for the good of the CNMI' PAGE 2

House of Representatives, it is your responsibility to do what is right for our Commonwealth and the people who call these islands home," wrote Torres in response to Sablan's request for a statement of support for his

See TORRES on Page 4

'We aren't ready for cannabis'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two members of the House who did not support the passage of the cannabis legalization bill last Tuesday noted that the CNMI is "not ready" for legalized cannabis.

Rep. Donald Barcina (R-Saipan), who voted against Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-178 to legalize the medical and recreational use of cannabis, and

See CANNABIS on Page 4

Free meals for all PSS students

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Child Nutrition Program of the Public School System will be providing free meals to all its students starting this incoming school year. The meals will include both breakfast and lunch.

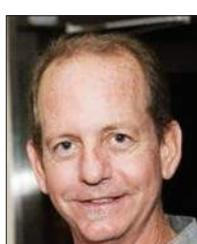
"All of the meals that will be served this coming school year will be free of charge for PSS students," said program manager Dale Roberts.

He said that PSS had always had a "Free and Reduced Program" but, in order for students to avail of free meals before, families had to apply for it.

"We'd process it and then discern, based on the income information provided, whether you are eligible or not," he said.

This time, parents need not apply for the free

See MEALS on Page 4



Roberts



START OF CLASSES

Zita Sablan, a second-grade teacher at Mount Carmel School, lines up students on the first day of the school year.

See story on Page 6.

MCS

INSIDE



NATION

Prosecutors released hours of video interrogation of Florida's school shooting suspect.

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ASIA

Earthquake put life on hold in damaged, hungry Indonesian village.

PAGE 21



WORLD

An Israeli businessman appears to have bitten off more than he can chew.

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Girl Talk

Local

'It's never too late to work for the good of the CNMI'

"Ten years working in Congress have taught me you never give up," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday. "Legislative proposals that are unacceptable now can become winners over time."

"A defeatist attitude in Congress will not get you anywhere," he said. "There are too many days when you face disappointment and discouragement. To be successful you have to keep trying and never give up. It is never too late."

A good example of how you have to keep working, Sablan said, is his new bill, the NMI Workforce Stabilization Act. The bill gives permanent status to long-term workers and investors in the Marianas.

"I could wait until January and the next Congress to introduce the Stabilization Act," Sablan said. "But I want to take advantage of the new, statutory definition of 'long-term worker' that I included in the U.S. workforce Act, Public Law 115-218."

"So, 36 hours after the President signed the new law with the new definition, I in-

roduced a bill that uses that definition to give long-term workers permanent status."

"And I am collecting cosponsors, so the bill has momentum when Congress convenes in January—especially if we have a Democratic majority."

Among Sablan's 20 cosponsors are Reps. Raul Grijalva and Zoe Lofgren. Grijalva will chair the Natural Resources Committee and Lofgren will chair the Immigration Subcommittee, if Democrats take over. Their committees will have jurisdiction over Sablan's bill.

Republicans have failed repeatedly in this Congress to deal with immigration issues. Despite that, Sablan was able to get his U.S. Workforce Act passed by building a bipartisan consensus for the bill. Immigration reform is expected to be a priority for Democrats in 2019.

"I am always looking forward," Sablan said. "We have a brand-new opportunity to help long-term workers and investors and to add another layer of stability to our economy. I am going to use that new opportunity."

"And I want to let the people of the Marianas—the people I work for—know exactly what the plan is, my agenda for the 116th Congress."

'To be successful, never give up'

Sablan has a long history of working to get permanent status for people who were overlooked when federal immigration law was first applied to the Marianas.

"In 2011, when I first introduced status legislation, the Fitial administration testified against it. And the CNMI Senate only wanted nonresident workers to get the status of citizens of the Freely Associated States," Sablan recalled.

"More recently, the CNMI flipped and the CNMI 902 team recommended U.S. lawful permanent residence status for long-term workers. So, I introduced

H.R. 5888, with the governor's agreement, backing up his new position and using the same status language that he opposed, as a senator, back in 2011.

Federal 902 negotiators agreed in principle with the governor that long-term workers should have a path to U.S. citizenship. But they "could have technical and/or substantive concerns with the details of any proposal," according to the 902 report. And, President Obama's representatives said, "eligibility criteria that depend on prior CNMI immigration statuses are particularly difficult to implement because access to comprehensive records is not guaranteed."

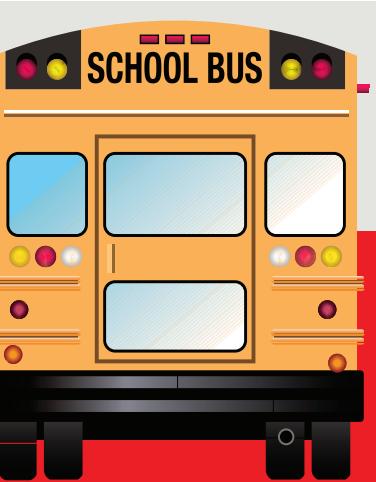
To get around those problems identified in the 902 report Sablan included language in the U.S. Workforce Act that defined "long-term worker" as someone admitted as a CW worker in fiscal years 2015 through and including 2018.

"By using my definition, which is now part of federal law and which is based on a status that is granted by the federal government itself, the Stabilization Act answers the federal concerns in the 902 report," Sablan said. "It is a little complicated, but getting laws enacted in Congress is complicated. And takes persistence. You cannot give up."

In his new Stabilization Act, Sablan also included permanent status for foreign investors originally admitted under CNMI immigration law. The 902 team made no recommendation about those investors.

"We may add additional groups going forward," Sablan said. "In Congress you legislate and, when you legislate, you negotiate. So, we may be able to broaden the scope of the Stabilization Act. Or we may put all of these proposals into a comprehensive immigration bill, which Democrats are readying for the 116th Congress."

Sablan has asked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to support his bill. (PR)



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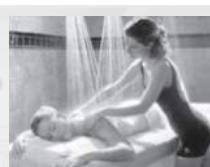
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Man seeks to withdraw guilty plea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A notary public who earlier pleaded guilty to lying in a passport application as part of a plea deal now wants to withdraw his guilty plea.

Liang Li has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow him to withdraw his guilty plea, saying he was pressured to accept the plea deal.

Liang Li, 34, first came to the CNMI from the People's Republic of China in 2004 at the age of 19. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2015. He and his parents own and operate a car rental business on Saipan.

Liang Li then became a notary public pursuant to Notaries Public Act, according to his lawyer, Janet H. King.



King

King said that Liang Li wants to proceed to a jury trial.

The indictment had charged Liang Li and Yanan Li with lying in a passport application and false document.

Liang Li pleaded guilty last April 3 as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government.

His previous counsel was Rene Holmes.

King became the lawyer for the defendant last May 29, at which time the sentencing hearing was scheduled for Aug. 17, 2018.

The sentencing hearing was later moved to Sept. 7, 2018.

King said she promptly communicated with assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, and with defendant's original lawyer, to discuss withdrawing the guilty plea.

King said while attempting to withdraw the guilty plea, she communicated with Benedetto to determine whether this case could be resolved with a withdrawal of the plea deal and with charges that would be legally and factually consistent with the facts as defendant believed them to have actually occurred.

King said since the indictment, the defendant surrendered all his notarial duties to the Office of the Attorney General.

King said it was made known to the U.S. government and Liang Li's original counsel that he admitted to notarizing the statement of consent (DS-3053) on Jan. 10, 2018, without the presence of Jian Liu, co-defendant Yanan Li's husband.

King said Liang Li adamantly denied notarizing the statement of consent (DS-

3053) on Jan. 10, 2018, in order for Yanan Li's infant child to be issued a U.S. passport.

The lawyer said the discovery shows that the defendant did not hesitate to admit that he made a mistake in notarizing a document on Jan. 10, 2018, with Jian Li present, but that he did so because two persons told him that DS-3053 was incorrectly filled out and he needed to fix his mistake.

King said the discovery shows that there is no relationship, business or personal, between defendant and co-defendant Yanan Li, Jian Liu or the infant.

See MAN on Next Page

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 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "17FS" that the jury selection scheduled for Aug. 13, 2018, at 8:30am at the U.S. District Court, Horiguchi building, Garapan, Saipan is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information contact the Office of the Clerk of Court, Superior Court at 236-9717. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Aug. 16

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Aug. 16, 2018, starting at

TORRES

From Page 1

H.R. 6578.

Sablan had solicited the support of the governor for his bill, which proposes to provide permanent status to workers who have held CW-1 visas since 2015 and provides them with the option to become U.S. permanent residents after five years.

Torres pointed out in his letter to Sablan that dating back to 2011, a month prior to Sablan's introduction of H.R. 1466 in the 112th U.S. Congress, Torres and his colleagues in the 17th NMI Legislature published the "only official CNMI document" expressing full support for granting improved status to long-term guest workers. He noted that they held 10 public hearings, did research, and heard community concerns to produce a 365-page report outlining

5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker for the meeting will be Dr. William Moss, ENT specialist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamaranas@gmail.com. (PR)

Public library closed on Aug. 25

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in celebration of CNMI Labor Day. The library will reopen with regular hours on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018. For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, [@joetenkiyu](https://www.facebook.com/jkpl). Follow us on Insta-

gram [@joetenkiyu](https://www.instagram.com/joetenkiyu). The library's hours of operation are as follows: from Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm; Saturday, from 9am to 4pm; and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. (PR)

Chamoru commission meeting set

The Kumision i Fino' CHamoru will hold a special meeting on Aug. 15, 2018, from 8am to 9am at the University of Guam Humanities conference room in Mangilao. Items on the agenda are approval of July 27, 2018, minutes and financial matters. For more information, contact commission chair Hope A. Cristobal at 483-0097 or commission secretary Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

NMC employees'

ing the Legislature's official recommendation to Congress.

Torres pointed out that in 2016, he led the CNMI delegation in the Section 902 consultations with the federal government, which produced the "first-ever report to the U.S. Congress" that expressed support for permanent status for long-term guest workers.

"It is through these constructive conversations with our federal counterparts that a legislative framework was established for workforce policy discussions between the CNMI and the US," Torres wrote. "In the report, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security agreed with our recommendation that [U.S.] Congress should seriously consider options for a more permanent [status] for workers and their families."

Despite all the support, Torres wrote, he sharply criticized the delegate for still failing to act on the widely supported

legislation.

"This report was provided to you [Sablan] with the support of the Obama administration and the federal consultation team. Yet, action on passage of this legislation did not occur," Torres wrote.

"I have been consistent in my belief that improved status is good for the CNMI, both economically and socially, in order to recognize the contributions long-term guest workers have and continue to make in our islands and in effort to prevent the separation of families."

Sablan, in an Aug. 1, 2018, letter, urged Torres to support his bill, and in a statement from his newsletter dated Aug. 3, 2018, hoped that Torres would "support my new legislation and all our legacy workers and investors."

"This has been a paramount priority of mine personally and of this administration and with every opportunity I have

training this week

Today, Aug. 10—the following Northern Marianas College departments will be closed:

- All academic offices
- Office of Admissions and Records
- Counseling Office
- Financial Aid Office
- Library / Archives
- Office of Institutional Effectiveness
- Office of the LSS VP / Office of the LSS Dean
- Project PROA Office
- UCEDD

These employees will be taking part in professional development activities. These offices will resume normal business hours and operations on Monday, Aug. 13, 2018. For information regarding the upcoming fall 2018 semester, visit marians.edu. (NMC)

been given, I have provided my support. However, we still have no legislation that effectively advocates for people who have helped build our Commonwealth, for people who have contributed to this progress, and for people who call these islands home," wrote Torres in his Aug. 9, 2018 letter, adding that long-term guest workers have been a "part of our community for decades."

"It was not until this year that we passed meaningful federal legislation in a Republican Congress and a Republican administration that ensures there is a full acknowledgement and protection of our long-term guest workers and their families and additional time for the construction and progress of our islands to continue," Torres said. "After 10 years of your term in Congress, we passed meaningful federal immigration legislation in 2018."

spective on the substance.

"We might be losing federal grants that is available to our Public School [System], our healthcare, our law enforcement, and many other agencies that are receiving funding from the federal [government]," she said, noting that the federal government is strict in keeping a drug-free work environment in federal agencies.

Maratita also pointed out that casino industry has yet to take off in the CNMI. Citing a lack of studies on the casino's social impact and, despite bringing in revenue for the NMI, Maratita believes that the Legislature must first prioritize the casino industry before moving on to the cannabis industry.

"Let's finish the casino industry before we go to another industry," she said, noting that the government should take things "one at a time."

Power interruption on Aug. 11

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a power interruption on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 5am to 10am, affecting Koblerville. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

MEALS

From Page 1

meals. "All of the meals served at public schools will be free of charge, without [parents] having to [submit] an application.

"For private school [students], if they want to avail of free meals, they will have to fill out an application and see if they get approved if they meet eligibility requirements," he added.

Roberts said the free meals has always been the system with the Head Start Program as it is a low-income program. "With Head Start, we never made them fill out an application. We served the free meal to every child and we basically extended that [benefit] to the food of all the public school students."

On the other hand, public school students will have to apply for free meals that are obtained outside of PSS. "This happens during spring, Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks as the children are taken to day care by working parents... To be eligible for free meals, you have to apply and your application has to be vetted and approved," Roberts added.

Aside from breakfast and lunch meals, PSS elementary and middle school students also get an after-school snack on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

"We did a two-month pilot on Tinian last year to see if we can do after-school snacks for high school students. On Tinian, they are combined middle school and high [school], unlike Saipan. We wanted to see the logistics...," Roberts said.

"We are going to move it to Rota into the junior senior high school levels, probably

five power poles will be replaced. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (CUC)

during the second month of school. It's very possible that, by the end of Christmas break, we may have figured out a way to get after-school snacks to all of the high schools on Saipan too," he added.

Roberts is aware of the food waste issue, especially now that all PSS students will get free meals. "We get a lot of comments from parents, teachers, [and] politicians about food waste...that there's going to be a lot of waste... One of the things we

constantly have trouble with is when a student brings food from home, which is totally fine because I would rather that you eat what you want to eat as long as you are eating," Roberts said. However, this defeats the purpose of the Child Nutrition Program.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture rules states that we have to serve the children a nutritious meal and we try our best to feed them properly...that is the program and the rules are written that it is meant to be a full meal," he added.

According to Roberts, meal menus are posted on the PSS website and in the school in advance.

"If you know that your child doesn't like the menu for a particular day, then you can ask the child to bring lunch. Meals are published at the PSS website and the schools usually post them in the office and in the cafeteria. It's a six-week cycle so they can figure out the cycle after the first couple of months," he said.

"One of things that we would like to do for this year is to put up flavor stations with some seasoning so the students do not have to bring their own and we are still figuring out the logistics of that," he added.

passport for another person.

Liang Li allegedly aided the false statement by making a false, notarized document purporting to bear the signature of Jian Liu.

Liang Li allegedly certified that he personally witnessed Jian Liu sign a DS-3053 Statement of Consent, and backdating it to Jan. 8, 2018.

The document was submitted to the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan.

Liang Li allegedly knew that Jian Liu had not signed the form on Jan. 8 or Jan. 10 as Liu had departed in the early morning hours of Jan. 10.

CANNABIS

From Page 1

Vice Speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), who abstained from voting, both believe that the CNMI is not ready for cannabis.

In an interview with Barcina yesterday, he explained that the bill itself has several "questionable" provisions.

"The bill itself, being a revenue-generating bill, has a lot of fiscal impact on the government—there is a lot of cost to the government," he said, adding that the general fund would be tapped to finance the cannabis industry, as well as to implement regulations, equipment procurement, and whatnot.

"Also, the fact that [marijuana] is still illegal to the federal government, where are we going to deposit the money?" he asked.

During discussions on the

bill Tuesday, Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) noted that since the Drug Enforcement Administration still recognizes cannabis as a Schedule I drug, banks that are regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. want nothing to do with cash associated with the cannabis trade for fear of being shut down.

"There is a lot of enforcement that has to come into this industry. For me, we are not ready. We do not have the enforcement. We keep creating bills and measures that are going to make revenue but how much revenue is going to come in from this bill? There is a fiscal impact and we don't even define that [in the bill]—the upfront cost," noted Barcina.

Maratita abstained from the vote because she believes that only medical cannabis should be legalized—not recreational cannabis.

I support legalization of cannabis for medical use,"

Maratita explained in Tuesday's session. "Legalizing cannabis for recreational use and personal [use]...does not [take into account] the social upheaval that we will have in the Commonwealth."

She said she understands the need of those who are terminally ill; have cancer; Alzheimer's disease; post-traumatic stress disorder; and other diseases that benefit from cannabis—hence her support for medical use.

"What good will it do to our community to have all this [money] and yet our social welfare remains to be impacted?" she asked.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Maratita believes the Legislature should remain prudent and take into consideration other aspects of legalizing cannabis, such as the federal government's per-

pective on the substance. "We might be losing federal grants that is available to our Public School [System], our healthcare, our law enforcement, and many other agencies that are receiving funding from the federal [government]," she said, noting that the federal government is strict in keeping a drug-free work environment in federal agencies.

Maratita also pointed out that casino industry has yet to take off in the CNMI. Citing a lack of studies on the casino's social impact and, despite bringing in revenue for the NMI, Maratita believes that the Legislature must first prioritize the casino industry before moving on to the cannabis industry.

"Let's finish the casino industry before we go to another industry," she said, noting that the government should take things "one at a time."

MAN

From Page 3

King said at the plea hearing last April 2, defendant had difficulty in accepting the fact allegations but did so anyway out of fear of guaranteed jail time if he chose to go to trial.

King said following acceptance of defendant's plea, defendant reached out to the U.S. Ombudsman by email where he expressed his regret and doubt over pleading guilty.

According to the indictment, on Jan. 10, 2018, the defendants lied in an application for a U.S.

passport for another person. Liang Li allegedly aided the false statement by making a false, notarized document purporting to bear the signature of Jian Liu. Liang Li allegedly certified that he personally witnessed Jian Liu sign a DS-3053 Statement of Consent, and backdating it to Jan. 8, 2018. The document was submitted to the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan. Liang Li allegedly knew that Jian Liu had not signed the form on Jan. 8 or Jan. 10 as Liu had departed in the early morning hours of Jan. 10.

3 candidates are out of the Nov. election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two who filed candidacies as independent bets for the House of Representatives and one non-partisan who filed a candidacy for the Board of Education are out of the race, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday.

Cecilia R. Taitano, who is formerly with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Joseph Muna Mendiola, and Jonathan SN. Sablan are out of the Nov. 6 general election, according to CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol.

Taitano filed her candidacy as an independent candidate for Precinct 4 of the House of Representatives. However, the CEC later determined that she did not meet the residency requirements.

Precinct 4 covers Tanapag and San Roque areas.

Mendiola filed his candidacy as an independent candidate for Precinct 5 of the House.

Igitol said that Mendiola also did not meet the residency requirements and that the CEC has already notified him.

Precinct 5 covers Kagman. Mendiola submitted a letter to CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez Wednesday, to inform them about his withdrawal as a candidate.

"I personally respect the requirements of election laws, provisions, and subsections," said Mendiola in the letter.

With respect to Sablan, he filed Wednesday his candidacy as a non-partisan bet for Board of Education Tinian position.

Igitol said Sablan, however, emailed CEC yesterday afternoon his notice to withdraw as candidate.

Wednesday was the deadline to submit candidacy papers. With Taitano, Mendiola, and Sablan out of the race, there are now 94 candidates vying for 45 positions.

Villagomez said the drawing of candidates' slot in the ballots for Saipan and Rota will be held today, Friday.

The drawing of candidates' slot for Tinian was done Wednesday.

The CEC board will conduct a meeting on Aug. 15 for the certification of candidates.

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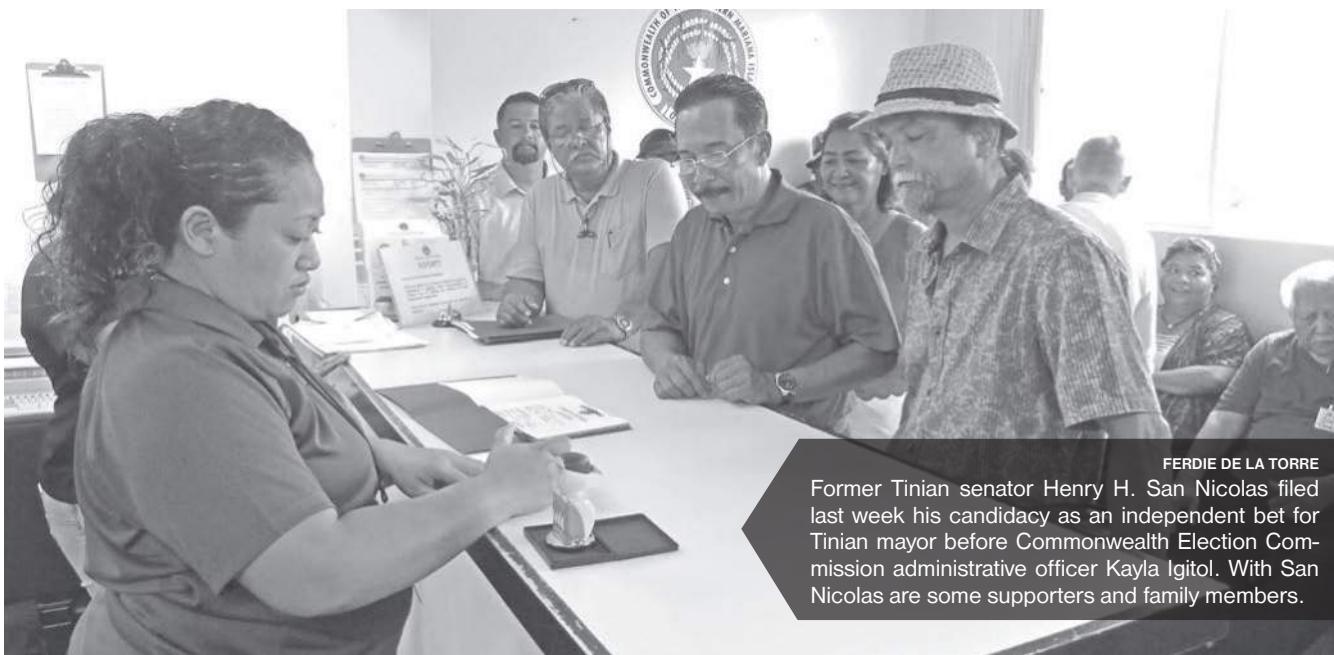
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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Former Tinian senator Henry H. San Nicolas filed last week his candidacy as an independent bet for Tinian mayor before Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Kayla Igitol. With San Nicolas are some supporters and family members.



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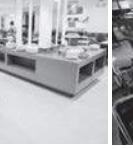
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'Eight years later, some Tinian homesteads still stand empty'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some homesteads on Tinian that were awarded eight years ago still don't have houses due to lack of utilities, according to former Tinian senator Henry Hofsneider San Nicolas.

He disclosed that some people just clean up the lots. "They have not started building their homes because the [utility] infrastructure is not there yet—road, water, power," said San Nicolas.

He intends to make this his priority. San Nicolas filed last week his candidacy as an independent bet for the Tinian mayoral race. His opponent is Rep. Edwin Palacios Aldan, who is a Republican.

If elected, San Nicolas said

»Former senator says island needs to rebuild economy

he will be working on the utilities infrastructure so that people issued with homesteads can actually start building their homes.

"There still a lot of things that need to be done on Tinian," said San Nicholas, citing that they still have roads that have not been paved.

The most important thing for him is rebuilding the island's economy in the wake of the closure of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. The former senator, who cited the outsized role the Dynasty played in the Tinian economy, said there are potential businesses that have expressed an interest in setting up business on Tinian.

San Nicolas served for nine years as senator. He retired in 2009 after his second term as senator ended.

FOR SEVENTH YEAR IN A ROW MCS re-opens with enrollment boost

Marking a seventh year in a row of enrollment increases, Mount Carmel School opened its doors to the new 2018-2019 school year with over 600 students—up from a historic low of 260 seven years ago.

In addition to the enrollment increase, the school launched the year with some new additions, including new teachers, new courses, and new solar panels.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero credited the school's teachers with the enrollment increase.

"When we launched our 2017-2020 Strategic Master Plan last year, one of our top priorities was improving instructional quality, and that's exactly what our faculty have done," he said. "Under the leadership of our principal, Frances Taimanao, and our vice principal, Barbara Mefalen, who bring a wealth of experience and expertise with them, our teachers have used assessment data to drive what they teach and how they teach. Using a blend of innovative techniques and tried and true methods, our teachers are helping our students shine."

One student who has shined is Student Council president Dayna Macaranas, who is enthusiastic about the new school year. "I'm excited about us coming together as a family with a lot of school spirit."

Of what she and the council want to accomplish this year, Macaranas said, "We want to get students more involved in the school and in the community."

While the school's enrollment increased, the school is still committed to keeping class sizes for optimal learn-

ing environment. This is why the school hired several new teachers. In the elementary level, Kimberly Tentia will teach K4, Tasia Sablan will be a teacher aide in K4, Kimberly Tudela will teach second grade, and Zyon Castillo will teach third grade. In the upper grades, Keiko Yamagata, who used to be the school's business manager, is returning to teach social studies, Sarah Johnson will teach English, and Leeani Villagomez, the school's secretary, will teach high school and elementary art.

In addition to new teachers, the school is introducing new courses in creative writing and media communications and launching a number of new programs. The school's information management system has been enhanced to include new human resource processes, such as digital timesheets. As reported recently, the school will also open the new year with 548 solar panels.

The first day of school started with the annual opening day Mass, the Mass of the Holy Spirit, which was celebrated by Fr. Allan Cabatian. After the Gospel, school employees had a Commissioning Ceremony of Catholic Educators, which is held every start of the school year during the Mass of the Holy Spirit. The ceremony highlighted the commitment of faculty, staff, and administrators to the school's mission and philosophy.

While there has been a substantial enrollment increase, the school still has limited slots available in a few grade levels. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit mountcarmelsaipan.com. (MCS)


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'A new beginning for NMI Democrats'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Inc. board chair Daniel O. Quitugua said their convention last Saturday marks a new beginning for their group in their bid to revive their presence in the local political arena.

The local Democratic Party had already produced two governors—Carlos S. Camacho as the CNMI's first elected chief executive in 1978 and Froilan Tenorio, who served from 1994 to 1998. Camacho's lieutenant governor was Francisco C. Ada while Tenorio's deputy was Jesus C. Borja.

The Democrats also produced the CNMI's first female senator in Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, who topped the 2005 race for Saipan. She served one term in the 15th Commonwealth Legislature and chose not to run for re-election.

Quitugua told *Saipan Tribune* that he was happy with the outcome of their party's convention. "I am elated. I'm extremely happy and proud that former central committee members were able to come together to this convention."

"This means a lot, not only for our own members, but



Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Inc. board chair Daniel O. Quitugua speaks during the party's convention last Saturday at the GrandVrio.

JON PEREZ

also for the community."

The Democrats had long been dormant in the Commonwealth's political scene but had small successes, with

some of their bets managing to win seats in the CNMI Legislature.

They fielded a gubernatorial ticket in 2014, with Quitugua

as Edward M. Deleon Guerrero's running mate. They finished fourth in the general election and afterwards endorsed the tandem of then governor Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph DLG Torres for the runoff.

The Democratic Party also announced early this year that they are fielding former Senate president and Rota mayor Joseph S. Inos, Eloy's brother, as its gubernatorial candidate but withdrew his candidacy after two weeks.

"Yes, we're dormant before. You know, we have a lot of good history and we also have some disappointing [ones]. But all of those are in the past now and this is a new beginning," said Quitugua.

'People want change'

The convention was held on Aug. 4, the birthday of former President Barrack Obama, the 44th President of the United States, who ran in 2008 under the campaign slogan "Change."

And Quitugua said that this is also what the people of the CNMI want.

"Based on what we've been hearing in the community, it's very basic. They feel that the government doesn't belong to them," he said when asked

what would be the critical issue in this year's election.

"They feel that the government not only does not represent their interests, but also misrepresent it. Something is definitely wrong. I think, in that sense, they are calling for change."

Endorsing independents

The Democratic Party is fielding two candidates for the House of Representatives: Glenn Manglona (Precinct 1) and Peter Muña (Precinct 5). They have joined forces with some independent candidates.

The party is backing eight independent candidates led by the gubernatorial ticket of former governor Juan N. Babauta and Dr. Rita A. Sablan, a former CNMI State Public School System commissioner.

The party is also endorsing the senatorial candidacies of former House speaker Heinz Hofsneider and former local Labor secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero.

The Democrats are also supporting the re-election bid of Rep. Edwin Propst, who is running as an independent for a third time, and fellow Precinct 1 candidates Samantha Birmingham-Babauta and Franklin Babauta.

The party is also endorsing former representative Tina Sablan, another independent candidate. She is running at Precinct 2 after serving in the 16th Legislature representing Precinct 1.

They are also backing CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's bid for a sixth term in Congress.

"When the situation presented itself...we put aside politics and decide to join hands," Quitugua said. "The best interest of the Commonwealth must be the driving force behind any participation for public service, because the current administration failed to achieve that. That gives us the motivation in getting together and working together to provide the people of the Commonwealth with a government that represents them."

Japanese group to hold cleanup

The Japanese Society of Northern Marianas will perform a volunteer cleanup on Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi (from 8:45 to around 11:30am) and Japanese Cemetery in Susupe (from 8:45am to around 10:00am).

Volunteers are being asked to bring drinking water and gloves. For more information, contact info@saipan-nihon-jinkai.com. (PR)

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Apatang: Exempt us from DPW fees

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office has requested the help of the Legislature after being notified by a government agency that it will be charged tipping fees for waste disposal.

The Saipan Mayor's Office asked the Legislature to intervene after the Department of Public Works informed the Saipan Mayor's Office that, starting Oct. 1, 2018, they would start charging and collecting tipping fees from government agencies that dispose of solid waste at the government-operated solid waste disposal facility.

The Saipan Mayor's Office pointed out that in their fiscal year 2019 budget request, the office omitted the ask for the additional expense.

"The debris that we haul for disposal at the centers are primarily solid waste generated from unlawful dumping and litter along public roadways and public places," Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang wrote to House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), Senate President Arnold Palacios



Apatang

(R-Saipan), and Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

The letter suggests that the Legislature may do one of two things: appropriate enough funds to cover the estimated annual tipping fees of the Saipan Mayor's Office or introduce and pass legislation that excludes the office from DPW's new charge.

"...Our island beautification project includes clearing of vegetation along road shoulders and public places, debris removal, scrap metal and junk car removal, disposal of white goods, among other things, which generates tons of solid waste in any given year," said Apatang. "The only proper place to dispose of all solid waste we generate from our island-wide beautification projects are either the Lower Base Transfer Station or [the] Marpi Landfill," he added.

Apatang noted that the creation of staging areas where they collect the garbage is only temporary and must be cleared of any stockpile of debris within a given period of

time to avoid creating an open, unauthorized dump.

He noted that his office is projected to pick up 214 junk cars and other scrap metal debris, perform 26 land clearings, e.g., funeral parking, clearance of rights-of-way, etc., 76 tree pruning, and 789 debris removal and disposal.

"The amount of solid waste we expect our projected activities in the next fiscal year will generate will be very substantial, which we estimate will exceed five tons," he wrote. "Because the amount of solid waste will vary from fiscal year to the next, we would appreciate your time and help with our request."

As of publication, the Legislature has yet to respond to Apatang's letter.

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Man allegedly beats up drinking partner

A 42-year-old man was injured when his friend, whom he had invited to his house for a drinking session, allegedly beat him up during an argument over work in Lower Navy Hill Sunday night.



who imposed a bail of \$2,500 in an unsecured bond.

According to police, the victim stated that he had invited Mondal to his house to drink beer. An argument arose as they were drink-

ing. Mondal then allegedly punched the victim in the face. The victim's cousin tried to prevent the fight from escalating but Mondal allegedly kept punching the victim.

Another man came out from the house and held Mondal, who threatened that he would kill the victim.

Someone then called the police. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

When a police officer responded to the scene, the victim's right eye was swollen and had blood surrounding the eyelid. Blood was also dripping down his nose. Medics brought him to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The suspect, Aunik Mondal, 43, was arrested for assault and battery. He was taken Monday before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan,



The construction of the Canoe House is nearly done.

FAHIM UDDIN

Canoe house cleanup

John Castro, project coordinator of the seafaring tradition program of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, was joined by seven others to clean up the inside of the Canoe House last Wednesday, which was littered with mostly empty beer cans.

With the Canoe House being open to the public, some

people use it over the weekend.

Castro is thankful that "some people pick up after themselves but some are just drinking and throwing cans around. So, we try our best to clean it."

He encourages the public to stop leaving behind their litter, as the Canoe House

showcases the importance of the CNMI's maritime history. He believes it also appeals to tourists. He said building the Canoe House entailed a lot of work and public funding.

The seafaring tradition program will be organizing an official opening ceremony at the completed Canoe House on Aug. 17, 2018. (*Fahim Uddin*)



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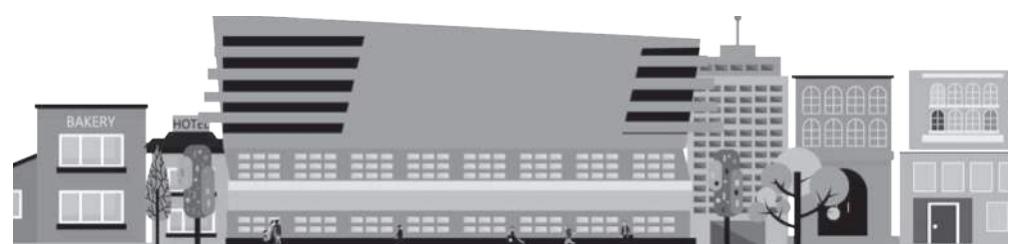
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Free classes on wellbeing and health

The Division of Public Health Services under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is looking to recruit 25 Chamorro men and women, ages 18 years old and above, to participate in the implementation of a 10-lesson curriculum titled, "Navigating Personal Wellbeing and Sexuality."

This curriculum was developed by the Office of Minority Health Resource Center after conducting an evaluation identifying the need for capacity building in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions in 2009.

The evaluation indicated

that discrimination and shame still remain as barriers to health seeking behaviors in the Micronesian region.

Health delivery systems and prevention efforts are often challenged by certain misconceptions and taboos about sex and sexuality. Hence, the evaluation identified the need for the development of a culturally-competent curriculum on human sexuality and HIV and AIDS related discrimination and shame among Chamorros.

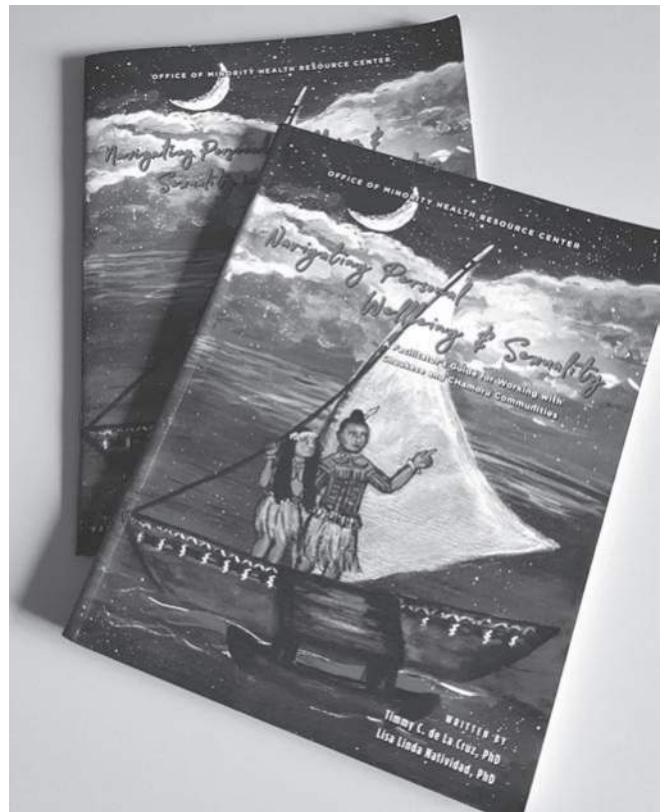
In an effort to reduce the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV transmission among residents of

Guam, the CNMI, and Chuuk, the OMHRC embarked on the development of learning resources about sex, human sexuality and sexual orientation that reflect the Chamorro's and Chuukese's unique cultures and histories, attitudes, beliefs, and learning styles.

The OMHRC developed a culturally-relevant curriculum on sexuality in Micronesia within an HIV and AIDS context to address the myths and misconceptions and strategies in initiating crucial dialogue about sex and disease prevention by offering those at-risk with information to

make informed and sound decisions about sex and sexuality, fostering open and honest discussions about sex, and by contributing to people's positive and safe experiences of sexuality. In addition, the curriculum also incorporated general well-being lessons around the topics of family violence, drug and alcohol use/misuse, suicide prevention, and working together for a better community.

The impact objective in running the curriculum is for at least 70 percent of the participants attending the workshops will increase their knowledge and skill set on HIV/STD prevention education. The in-



The Office of Minority Health Resource Center has developed a culturally-relevant curriculum on sexuality in Micronesia within an HIV and AIDS context to address the myths and misconceptions and strategies in initiating crucial dialogue about sex and disease prevention.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

formation will be evaluated for usefulness and behavior change on Saipan.

The lessons will be taught over five days on Aug. 21 and Sept. 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2018, between 5:30pm and 7pm at the Kanoa Resort.

If you are interested and

Konfitma exercise on Saipan and Rota

Both Saipan and Rota will be playing host to Konfitma 18, an annual full-scale exercise, during the week of Aug. 14 to 17, 2018.

The exercise will involve the CNMI Office of the Governor, CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in coordination with the U.S. Army Pacific Weapons of Mass Destruction out of Hawaii, along with Civil Support Teams from Washington, Guam, Utah, Hawaii, and Tennessee.

Multiple chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives-related scenarios will be simulated for first responders to act upon on Saipan and Rota.

In certain instances, events may occur simultaneously which may cause first responding agencies to break out into separate teams.

"This will be good exercise for the CNMI. Konfitma is where and when first responders can effectively identify gaps and determine where faulty operating procedures are, so it can be adjusted accordingly," said acting I HSEM special assistant, Pedro A. Leon Guerrero.

Expect an increase in first responding-related activities and traffic that include but will not be limited to explosions, heavier flow of emergency vehicle operations and the sounding off of sirens throughout the week.

Although the public is be-

would like to register to participate or if you learn more information about the curriculum, you can call 664-4050. Seats are limited with registration on a first-come-first-serve basis. The last day to register is on Aug. 16, 2018. (PR)

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ing provided advanced notice, HSEM maintains the stance on public awareness, "If you see something, say something."

HSEM encourages Saipan and Rota to remain vigilant and report any suspicious occurrences in case activities may be happening unrelated to Konfitma 18.

Agencies expected to participate along with HSEM and USARPAC are the departments of of Public Safety and Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Ports Police, Customs, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Public School System, Aircraft & Rescue Fire Fighters, Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Land & Natural Resources' Division of Fish & Wildlife, Marianas Regional Fusion Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Transportation Security Administration, the Courts of Justice U.S. Marshalls Office, the Federal Protective Services, and the U.S. Navy HSC 25.

Konfitma dates back to June 2010. These exercises present opportunities to assist in implementing current emergency plans by identifying capability and interoperability gaps.

For more information on Konfitma 18, contact Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, HSEM external affairs officer, at ncldg@cnnihsem.gov.mp. (PR)

Donation gives helping hand to Yap youth group

COLONIA, Yap—During the 2018 Micro Games, among the hundreds of volunteers who pitched in and provided support was a group from Mormon Helping Hands, the community service organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In addition to a group from the church's two local Yap branches in Colonia and Thol that helped clear out desks, chairs, and other furniture from the schoolrooms at Yap High School before it was turned into the athletes village, a team of media and technical experts arrived from Japan, Korea, Guam, and Pohnpei to make sure fans from around the region and the world could cheer on their favorite athletes from afar.

The all-volunteer group brought equipment along with their expertise and worked with local volunteers to set up live streaming of the games. They also took photos of the competitions that were posted online and shot videos that are

now being edited and will be uploaded to YouTube. Then, when the two-weeklong quadrennial event came to a close, they left three new laptops with an offer to donate them to a worthy organization in Yap.

OurYAP (Our Youth are Promising), a nonprofit dedicated to promoting "the well-being and development of Yaps' Youth for the benefit of all people of the state," was the recipient. Supported by the Yap State Department of Youth Services, OurYAP encourages youth networking and the dissemination of "ideas among youth clubs, develop[s] youth plans, ideas and coordinate[s] youth programs and activities within their respective communities."

LDS District president Jim Hachigeiresh presented the laptops to OurYAP representatives Michelle Chugen and Joshua Libyan in the presence of John G. Mangefel, Yap State Department of Youth Services.

"OurYAP did a great job dur-



From left, John G. Mangefel, Yap State Department of Youth Services; Joshua Libyan and Michelle Chugen, OurYAP; Jim Hachigeiresh, district president, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

JOYCE MCCLURE

ing the Micro Games as volunteers," said Hachigeiresh. "We know that OurYAP will put the laptops to good use. Helping Hands is always willing to help in any way we can," he added. "We are always available for anyone in need no matter what the need is."

With this donation, the young members of OurYAP can now realize their own mission of service, as well. (PR)



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Opinion

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Alex Jones' locker: Good riddance to the Infowars bully



Alex Jones from infowars.com at Settlers Landing during the Republican National Convention in Cleveland on Monday, July 18, 2016.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS

We struggle to name a human being as awful as the stinking rotten block of cheese in the national refrigerator named Alex Jones. We struggle to name a media outlet as heinous as his Infowars.

The first instinct of every good American should be to cheer the social networks that kicked him to the curb Monday.

Jones, a liar and a bully and a professional harasser, is public enemy No. 1 of decent discourse.

He pushed a conspiracy theory centered around a pizza parlor that led to a deranged follower shooting in the establishment. He spreads vile lies aimed at the victims of school shootings and their families, calling them "crisis actors."

This may well qualify as defamation; the parents of children in Sandy Hook have sued him, claiming just that.

The talking slug has a right, under the Constitution, to spout his drivel on a street corner. But not to broadcast to thousands on Facebook or Apple podcasts or Spotify or YouTube, all privately operated platforms ostensibly dedicated to encouraging the (at least reasonably) civil exchange of ideas.

Yet when Facebook and the other companies all rushed to drop Jones in what felt like a tech game of hot potato,

See ALEX on Next Page



No two alike: Purpose, population, and place

By WALTER V. WENDLE
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

One of the challenges for students and parents trying to select a place of study is that no two postsecondary institutions are the same. If for no other reason, the laws of physics assert that two things cannot occupy the same place at the same time (my paraphrase of Newtonian physics). Unquestionably, one of the primary objectives of college and university leadership, faculty, staff, students and parents is to understand the distinctives of purpose, population and place.

The Carnegie Classification System for postsecondary institutions makes a noble effort to clarify these distinctions to all who come calling. The problem is in the overwhelming number of institutional types. Including four-year, two-year and special-focus institutions, there are 33 distinct types. While this periodic table of colleges may be necessary for educational leaders and faculty, it is befuddling to parents and students who would like to understand a good fit for study. In addition, even faculty and administrators fall into the trap of glossing over unique characteristics that are important in understanding purpose, population and place for educational service.

In all cases the institution must recognize and respond to its mission and the people it serves in the place it calls home.

In 1960, Clark Kerr, president of the University of California, gave birth to "A Master Plan for Higher Education in California." The vision follows the principle that different universities serve different people in different places:

The basic issue in the development of the Master Plan for Higher Education in California is the future role of the junior colleges, state colleges and the University of California in the state's tripartite system and how the three segments should be governed and coordinated so that unnecessary duplication will be avoided.

This model of university structure and governance is emulated in states around the nation and nations around the world.

As universities increasingly feel the pull and push of political forces, rationality in operational distinctiveness of purpose, population and place may fade.

Erosion of mission clarity is at work in California where Kerr's ideas came to life. California universities are wrestling. The University of California, with its 10 campuses, created to be the research and scientific beacon of California, is being challenged by the 23 California State University campuses. Originally chartered to carry students through a master's degree, some CSU campuses now compete for Ph.D. programs. In addition, California Community Colleges offer bachelor's

See NO TWO on Page 17

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Labor, leisure, and briar pipes

August is a great month for goofing off, as is December and, come to think of it, we should add November to the tally, too, since it gets us ramped up for December. This leaves us nine months in the year to be serious about things.

That makes sense to me, but how does the world really stack up with this working thing?

I'm glad you asked. Across the 36 member nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the average worker works 1,770 hours per year. That's for the year 2014, incidentally, and, also incidentally, China is not an OECD member, so that powerhouse economy is not part of the data.

German workers tally the least amount of hours, at 1,366 per year. Mexico is at the other end of the chart, with 2,228 hours per worker. The U.S. is just about on the average, at 1,789 hours.

Japan, often cited as a hard-working, or perhaps, overworked, country, comes in at 1,729 hours. I don't know what's going on here; perhaps off-the-clock working is missed by statistics.

Now that we've seen some data, we can forget all about it, since I want to contemplate something more abstract. That's the notion of labor vs. leisure.

In economic parlance, "labor" is, well, labor. Everything else is, by default, "leisure." It's a zero zero-sum gig.

This stuff gets theoretical and pretty darned philosophical. You can make things more complicated when you consider that labor is not a uniform blob of activity, but, instead, has a lot of nuances to it.

Do we delay our entry into the workforce in order to get more education, or do we start bringing home a paycheck as soon as possible? Do we work for straight hourly pay, or for a salary, or for a commission? If we get an hourly raise, will we decide to work more hours or fewer hours? Do we take a safe job, or a

dangerous job that pays a premium for the risk? Do we work for a big, established company with a stable, if mediocre, salary, or do we take a low-pay, ground-floor flyer with a start-up in hopes of a fast ride to the top if it succeeds? Do we decide to work for somebody else at all, or do we invest our time and effort in self-directed endeavors?

None of the questions I posed have a "correct" answer. All pivot on personal preferences, assumptions, and constraints.

Of course, in reality, at any given moment, we're not offered a smorgasbord of all the options I posed. But the idea is a hypothetical exercise in a specific type of thinking, so the wider the field of potential options is, the more exercising we can do.

As interesting as that notion can be, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that it's built on a premise that isn't airtight. That premise is the simple, zero-sum tradeoff between labor and leisure.

Economics has a lot of these little gotchas. They look wonderful at first glance, but they start getting cranky after the honeymoon is over and the in-laws want to borrow your car.

Outside of economics texts, in real life, highly-compensated professions or entrepreneurial situations often embrace work as a calling, not just a job. There's actually a big gray area between labor and leisure. For example, if you're keeping up with some professional literature while sitting at Micro Beach soaking up the sun, is that labor or leisure?

If you're playing golf with your vendors: labor, or leisure?

How about karaoke with your clients? OK, that was a trick question. It's obviously pure labor.

For a few time-honored stations in life, such as farmer, rancher, or mariner, work might be an entire lifestyle and even a home.

Oh, and let's not forget lighthouse attendant. Now, that looks like the lifestyle for me: sitting in the topside apartment, warm

and snug in a cable-knit sweater, smoking a briar pipe. I'm surveying the horizon with a practiced eye. Fog starts rolling on shore. The sun, sinking low, ushers the sky into a gray dusk. A lock of platinum-hued hair brushes across my shoulder. It's followed by the presence of a well-manicured hand offering gentle pressure that beckons me hither. I saw this in a European tobacco ad about 45 years ago. Some things just stick with you.

Uh, where were we? I was about to say, before the fog rolled in, that the notion of an "average worker" can overlook the wide variance in personal preferences. For example, I've known writers, charter pilots, artists, doctors, dentists, and accountants who have worked into their 70s, or even 80s, just because they liked the work. Some of these pros were on Saipan. On the other hand, I've known people who retired in their 30s, threw their alarm clocks out, and never looked back.

Well, now that we've thought about this stuff, does it solve any of your problems?

No?

Frankly, it doesn't solve any of mine, either.

Oh, well, that's August for you. You shouldn't have gotten your hopes up. I tried to warn you.



By ED STEPHENS JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Ghostly No. 80!

The Democrat and independent parties have united recently, dropping anchor to solidify strategic plans in preparation for this year's gubernatorial race.

Keynote speaker former lieutenant governor Jesse Borja didn't mince words, slamming the incumbent administration for approving an 80-percent salary increase for the elected elite.

Republicans did it without blinking, then came out hushing that the issue be avoided altogether. Isn't it clear that people could see through your veil of deceit? Why chance playing Santa Claus in July? "What a tangled web we weave when we first start to deceive!"

You conceived it, received it, then tried to deceive the voters? It's 80 stories high, visible from any point in the archipelago!

It's an issue that has turned against itself (GOP) for taking care of "me, myself and I" over the hardship of thousands of employees and their families stuck in the filthy swamp of poverty income and below levels. It's a tough cookie to undo, given it was founded on greed and arrogance, ignoring half the workforce drowning in the swamp of poverty.

But the issue would definitely take prominence and center stage this election year. It's a trophy for Democrats, a self-inflicted monstrosity for Republicans. Without acrimony, let's present our views in straightforward fashion with a sense of maturity and civility to ensure the electorate is informed with a set of facts before Nov. 6.

Warriors: I've kept a note of old warriors I met more than 40 years ago. These were the folks who worked hard with a sense of humility to fulfill constitutional self-government that came to fruition in 1978.

Sadly, many have taken their final canoe sail into the sunset. A few others are still around in quiet retirement with their families.

In their own little ways their contributions focused on what's good for the NMI. They generously put their best foot forward, guiding our canoe to safe port. We made it and we've been here since 40 years ago.

Without risking redundancy, a few are blessed with the unique distinction shouldering with untiring dedication and resiliency the collective dreams and aspirations of our people forward. We made in 1978 upon the establishment of our constitutional government.

Tidings: We hear the comforting tidings of economic improvement while simultaneously we hear the discordant decibels of heavy cumulative deficit. It's good to find out what's the financial posture of the NMI.

It would seem to me critically dangerous relying upon a mono-economy in tourism to cover the basic needs of the NMI. It fluctuates and at the mercy of everything that happens in Japan and nearby Asian countries.

What if a disaster or geopolitical conflict pops up or escalates? It instantly derails tourism, whether we like it or not. Any plans to take the economy beyond accepted conventional wisdom? Why are we so content relying on superficial contentment?

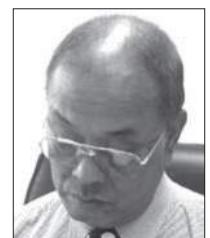
Just the fact that the NMI owes the Retirement Fund some \$789 million (unfunded liability) is itself troubling. But it's good the economic uptick granting the local government the opportunity to pay debts and obligations in some responsible way.

Our southern neighbor is into a "to and fro" debate how to fund the Guam Memorial Hospital. The shortfall isn't an internal negligence but forced upon GovGuam when the Trump tax cut whittled away. It had to scramble to make up the \$160 million in order to preserve millions of dollars it receives in other federally funded programs today.

net has to true public squares, also host anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan and former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke.

And many others whose hate may be less creative than Jones' but is no less real.

Sept. 11 truthers, flat-earthers and birthers (one of whom is, ahem, President) are also safe in its woodwork.



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Freebies: The Golden State, California, "has the highest poverty rate in the country," per the U.S. Bureau of Supplemental Poverty measure. One in five people in California is living in poverty and the state's residents account for 33 percent of all those on welfare in the United States, despite the state only being 12 percent of the country's population.

"The state spent \$958 billion on welfare programs between 1992-2015. According to the study, 60 percent of Californians are jobless and living in poverty," according to the report. It brings home the query, how much is the NMI collecting, on a cumulative basis, for food stamps, housing assistance, Medicaid, Medicare and other forms of help from the feds?

80-Percent Tower: Magoo heard that there's an 80-Percent Salary Tower on Capital Hill and wanted to ensure that he attends its official opening.

He related, "I heard attendance is limited to the elected elite because they'd be handed their 80-percent salary hike of some \$31,600!" He is also sure that he'd be a beneficiary of the loot by simply showing up for the event. "Eh, must learn how to look helpless and penniless too". Gee! All that for a stale tuna sandwich?

The burden's on the social media giants to define their terms clearly, and explain their decisions deliberately, to show that they're booting bad ones based on clear standards, not engaging in arbitrary or ideological purges.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 90° ▾ 76°

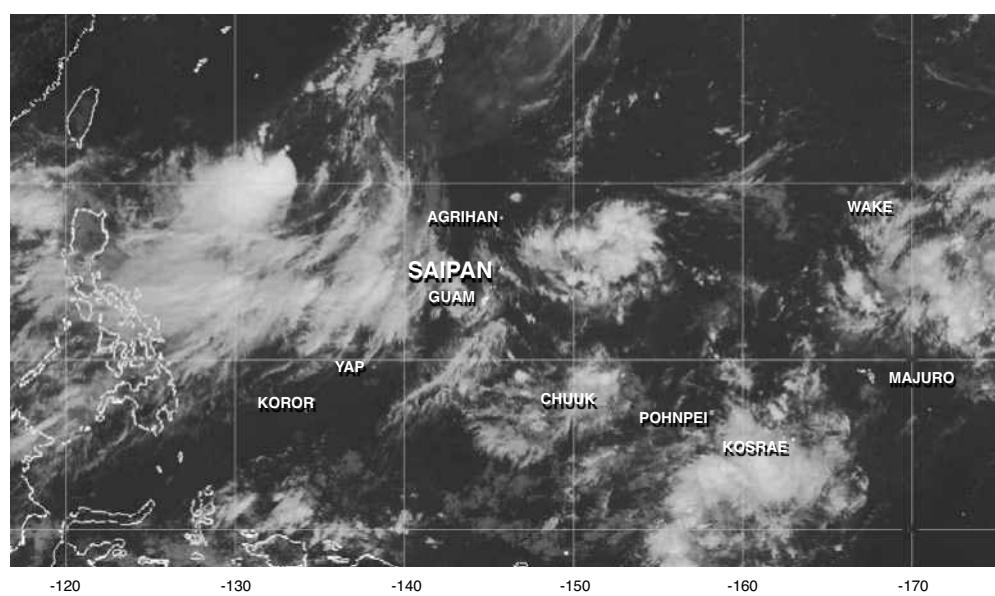
▲ 90° ▾ 78°

▲ 89° ▾ 78°

▲ 89° ▾ 77°

▲ 89° ▾ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:58 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

A few tweaks were made to the forecast. This morning a weak surface circulation could be found between Guam and Chuuk. An upper-level trough was also located just to the east of the Marianas. Both of these features produced an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just to the east of the Marianas during the morning. While most of this activity will remain east of the area, can not rule out a few of the showers and thunderstorms entering the local area. In fact a few thunderstorms did pass across the Saipan and Tinian water this morning. The encroachment of more thunderstorms is possible as the surface circulation and upper-trough will persist over the area until at least Friday night. Added to the forecast isolated thunderstorms through Friday night. Also with light winds and the favorable upper-level pattern combined with daytime heating an isolated thunderstorms is not out of the question. The activity produced by the two weather features will also produce enough remnant clouds to keep skies mostly cloudy through Friday night.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE			▼ ▲ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 45°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Showers	89° / 77°	
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	90° / 71°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 39°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	89° / 74°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 81°	
Paris	Showers	79° / 61°	
Busan	Windy	86° / 79°	
Rome	Sunny	91° / 72°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 71°	
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 54°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	95° / 75°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	93° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:15 AM	LOW TIDE	1.14	
05:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.05	
12:50 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.56	
7:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.98	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:01 AM	6:43 PM	
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM	
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM	
Monday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM	
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:23 AM	5:40 PM	-
Saturday	5:28 AM	6:38 PM	-
Sunday	6:33 AM	7:32 PM	-
Monday	7:35 AM	8:21 PM	-
Tuesday	8:35 AM	9:08 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 8:45am 9:30am Daily				UA117 7:00am 7:45am Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
0Z626 2:10am 6:00am 1				0Z625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
0Z626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
UJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				0Z625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				UJ651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396 7:30am 12:00pm 1				JD395 8:25am 3:30pm 4			
JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm 4				JD395 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7			
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6				3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5			
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7				MU763 4			

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Irresponsible reporting

I am very much aware of the power of the written language. I am also aware that with such power and command comes with it the responsibility of wielding restraint. Oftentimes, though, journalists don't recognize this concept and use words that can impair or severely stagger one's spiritual and emotional growth.

I'm probably one of the most pessimistic people you can find around these parts. I hate it when I can predict things before they actually happen due to past experiences or merely through my understanding of local Chamorro and Refaluwasch culture. Some of my friends have even jokingly christened the name "Rostradamus," as a result of some of my foretold conclusions.

Last Tuesday, I witnessed a news correspondent come through NMTI looking for a news story. It's been my experience in the past that oftentimes the media either sensationalizes things mentioned or completely misquotes the individual

being interviewed. This has been and continues to be a challenge with the news reports on island.

The article titled "21 dropouts to get high school diplomas from NMTI" in Wednesday's *Marianas Variety* was a perfect example of *irresponsible* journalism. Journalists must be mindful that they are a member of this community and the words they publish have a profound effect on the people that read their articles. NMTI admissions personnel specifically asked the reporter *NOT* to use the word "dropout."

Please don't get me wrong by thinking I'm just being sensitive about the use of a word. It just that some of the individuals that come to our institute for their Adult Vocational Technical High School have chosen to step outside their current surroundings and correct an unfinished item on their bucket list. We try to motivate our students as much as possible. As a result of finishing their high school requirement we've noticed they now have a bit of pep in their step and earning such

a diploma they can now move further in their trades studies to pursue their certification in technical trades fields like automotive, welding, carpentry, HVAC, etc.

NMTI is primarily a trades school that has an adult high school component to complement its ongoing programs. The only difference with our high school from that of other schools is that the electives are in the trades areas.

I can only hope that the media will see that what they write can be damaging emotionally for those aspiring to make positive changes in their lives. As Rupert Murdoch once said: "Great journalism will always attract readers. The words, pictures and graphics that are the stuff of journalism have to be brilliantly packaged; they must feed the mind and move the heart."

Ross Manglona
Songsong Village, Luta

NO TWO

From Page 14

degrees in workforce areas that are in demand in the state.

This blurring of mission, a.k.a. purpose, will undermine quality in educational opportunity, satisfaction to students and faculty, and eventually undermine institutional effectiveness for state and citizen alike.

One of the cogs in this machine of rationality are the various state higher education coordinating boards, well-articulated by Paul E. Lingenfelter, national expert on education and public policy. Those boards should exist beyond politics, although in almost every state they are appointed by the governor. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is one such example. Reduced duplication, increased efficiencies, the division and location of various degree programs to satisfy state need and citizen aspiration are important

and legitimate aspirations. A deliberate and systemic effort of thought and action that recognizes political influence and state funding guided by statewide effectiveness in utilization of tax dollars is a tall order. The question to answer is this: Does this institution and/or this program, in this place, with the people who serve and are served by it, perform a useful function in the constellation of state offerings?

A perplexing aspect in this range of considerations is that, in spite of the 33 Carnegie Higher Education Classifications, there appears to be one model in the minds of many citizens about what an effective postsecondary institution looks like. This is a harmful condition. The model for universities is typically the state flagship and/or land-grant institution. Additionally, elite private institutions influence ideas about what a university should be, as well as who and how it should serve.

Ultimately, effective institutions of higher education—from trade schools to elite private universities, serve best when they recognize and serve their mission.

For example, two-year colleges were called junior colleges for many years. Labeling terminology shifted to community college and then simply "college." The oldest community college in America, Joliet Junior College in Illinois, opened in 1901 with six students. Established in partnership with the University of Chicago, it has steadfastly held on to name and purpose with pride even though their mission has changed over time to add technical skills training to the original purpose of academic preparedness for transfer to the University of Chicago. Any action, by design or default, that confuses the community college mission of preparedness and workforce education steps outside of stated purpose.

In all cases the institution must recognize and respond to its mission and the people it serves in the place it calls home. Purpose. Population. Place.

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His reflections are available at www.walterwendler.com.

 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2018 Third General Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 16, 2018 at Aqua Resort – Taga Room from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of August 16, 2018
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2018 Second General Membership Meeting of April 17, 2018
- V. Reports
 - A. Statewide Independent Living Council Chairperson
 - B. Center for Living Independently Executive Director
 - C. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director
- VI. Old Business
 - A. National Council on Independent Living Conference Update
- VII. New Business
 - A. State Plan for Independent Living Implementation Report Update
 - B. Statewide Independent Living Council Indicators/Assurances/Policies & Procedures
 - C. Membership Listing Update
 - D. SILC-NET National Webinar: State Plan for Independent Living Development
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Friday, August 10, 2018.

/s/ **Gernadine Camacho**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

  Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
LIHEAP
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will hold a Public Hearing on

DATE	TIME	ISLAND	VENUE
AUGUST 10, 2018	5:30-6:00 PM	SAIPAN	CAROLINIAN UTT
AUGUST 14, 2018	5:30-6:30 PM	TINIAN	TINIAN YOUTH CENTER
AUGUST 16, 2018	5:30-6:30 PM	ROTA	ROTA YOUTH CENTER

The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on the FY 2019 LIHEAP Model Plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for eligible households in the CNMI.

Copies of the LIHEAP Model Plan and the Agenda of the public hearing will be available for public inspection beginning Monday, August 6, 2018 at the DCCA-LIHEAP office located in Capitol Hill, Asuncion Road, Building #1339 and on the web at dcca.gov.mp. Persons wishing to schedule testimony or receive a copy of the LIHEAP Model Plan should contact DCCA-LIHEAP at 664-2574 or 664-2578.

Public Comments are due by Friday, August 24, 2018. You may submit your comments via dcca.gov.mp or the contacts listed below.

Mailing Address: Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Contact #: DCCA-LIHEAP 664-2574 or 664-2578
DCCA Secretary's Office 664-2584

Email Address: Gregoria Olopai, LIHEAP Supervisor (golopai1960@gmail.com)
Robert Hunter, DCCA Secretary (roberthhunter@gmail.com)

Veterans registration drive starts tomorrow

Beginning this weekend, the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will be conducting bimonthly veterans registration drives to assist eligible veterans in enrolling for VA health care and other benefits.

"Our goal is to provide an accessible means for veterans to connect with the services

they are eligible for," Sablan said. "We have many veterans who have served our country bravely and with distinction. They may not know what benefits exist for them. These are benefits they have earned."

The veterans registration drive launches this Saturday, and will be held twice a month through December

2018, on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm in front of Joeten Superstore in Oleai. The specific dates are as follows: Aug. 11 and 18; Sept. 15 and 22; Oct. 13 and 20; Nov. 3 and 17; and Dec. 15 and 22

In addition to assisting veterans interested in enrolling in VA health services, the congressional office's Wounded

Warrior Fellow, Randy Johnson, will be available to answer questions about obtaining military or VA records, resolving inquiries about VA benefits claims, recovering service medals, and participating in the Veterans History Project.

Additionally, staff from the CNMI Military and Veterans

Affairs Office will be present to share information about their services, and to assist veterans in signing up for the CNMI veterans registry.

According to the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office, more than 1,700 Marianas veterans are listed on the local registry; however, only about 350 veterans are actually signed up for VA health care. Even fewer are signed up for VA benefits, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Through our outreach efforts, we hope to increase VA enrollment and make sure that more veterans are able to get the care and benefits they deserve," Sablan said. "We also hope that friends and family members will be able to obtain more information to encourage the veterans in their lives to sign up for services."

Sablan has been a strong and consistent advocate for improved access to care and benefits for veterans in the Marianas. Through his efforts, over the past year alone the number of community providers enrolled in the Veterans Choice program has tripled, the Guam Vet Center has re-established outreach and clinical services, and outreach vis-

its by VA benefits counselors have increased.

Sablan's ultimate goals are to establish a full-time VA clinic and a full-time Vet Center in the Marianas. The VA is now preparing to conduct a clinic feasibility study, the first step toward establishing a clinic. The study is mandated by legislative language Salan included in the VA Mission

Act, which President Trump signed into law last June. Sablan is also working with the Guam Vet Center on a needs assessment that will be instrumental in standing up a Vet Center in the Marianas.

The congressman has also hosted annual veterans resource fairs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, published a Veterans Resource Directory and a Report to Veterans, and added the oral histories of more than a dozen Marianas veterans to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. This veterans registration drive is the latest in Sablan's veterans outreach program.

For more information about the congressional office's outreach initiatives and services for veterans, call (670) 323-2647, visit <https://sablan.house.gov> or email kilili@mail.house.gov. (PR)

"Strengthening Biosafety and Laboratory Preparedness & Response in the USAPI".



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dr. Philip Dauterman, center, of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is presented with a training certificate for "dangerous goods shipping" on Aug. 7 by Dr. Rebecca Sciulli and Dr. Mark Nagata of the Hawaii State Department of Health. The training was held at the Royal Orchid Hotel in Tumon, Guam. The certificate was awarded by the International Air Transport Association.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-18-030

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRESTRESSED CONCRETE POWER POLES (FEMA Water System Mitigation Project)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-030, Supply & Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 7, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA and the CUC, Board of Directors.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-adrian.reyes@cucgov.org, Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address - christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

Printed on recycled paper

18 FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

18 FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China exports accelerated in July despite rise in US tariffs

BEIJING (AP)—China's exports to the United States surged last month, shrugging off President Trump's tariff hike in a dispute over technology. Shipments to the United States climbed 13.3 percent from a year earlier, to \$41.5 billion, after a roughly similar rise in June, customs data show. At the same time, Beijing's trade surplus with the United States—a frequent source of anger and threats from Trump—widened by 11 percent from a year ago to \$28 billion. The rise in exports defied expectations of a slump after merchants rushed to fill orders the previous month before Washington imposed 25 percent duties on \$34 billion of Chinese goods on July 6 in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

Immigration raids in Nebraska, Minnesota target businesses

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A large federal law en-

forcement operation conducted Wednesday targeted businesses in Nebraska and Minnesota that officials say knowingly hired—and mistreated—immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally. The investigative arm of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Homeland Security Investigations—led the operation that saw about a dozen businesses and plants raided and 17 business owners and managers indicted for fraud, wire fraud and money laundering. Of those, 14 were taken into custody Wednesday and three were still being sought. Authorities also arrested more than 130 workers at various businesses.

Tesla CEO's buyout bid raises eyebrows, legal concerns

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tesla CEO Elon Musk is seeking relief from the pressures of running a publicly held company with a \$72 billion buyout of the electric car maker, but he may be acquiring new headaches with his peculiar handling of the proposed deal. Almost everything about the deal is outlandish, from Musk's out-of-the-blue disclosure in a nine-word tweet to the assertion

that he has lined up adequate financing to buy a company that seems to burn through cash faster than it produces cars. If Musk can pull it off, he will have burnished his reputation as an eccentric visionary who has been compared to Tony Stark, the billionaire playboy depicted by actor Robert Downey Jr. in the "Iron Man" movies. But if the buyout flops, Musk and Tesla will likely face class-action lawsuits from shareholders.

NYC moves to rein in Uber with cap on ride-hail vehicles

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City moved Wednesday to regulate the explosive growth of Uber and other app-based ride services with a temporary cap on new licenses for ride-hailing services. The City Council approved a package of bills that included a one-year moratorium on new licenses for for-hire vehicles while the city studies the rapidly changing industry. The legislation also will allow the city to set a minimum wage for app-based drivers. Backers of the proposals said both the traditional yellow cab industry and drivers for app-based services are

suffering as Uber cars flood the city's streets. They said the growth of ride-hailing apps has also worsened traffic congestion.

Ford celebrates production of 10 million Mustang sports cars

FLAT ROCK, Mich. (AP)—Ford Motor Co. marked production of the 10 millionth Mustang with celebrations Wednesday at the automaker's headquarters and at the Flat Rock Assembly Plant where the iconic sports car is made. A parade of Mustangs from 1964 to the present day rolled into the parking lot at the Dearborn headquarters before making the 30-minute drive—complete with police escort—to the Flat Rock complex. There, the cars were organized into a configuration that spelled out "10,000,000." The commas were represented by the first Mustang produced and the 10 millionth, a 2019 Wimbledon White GT V8 six-speed manual convertible. Mustang is the best-selling sports car of the last 50 years in the U.S. and the world's top-selling sports car for three years in a row, according to company analyses.

(A M E N D E D)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 23, 2018

5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 06/04/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1979:** Ya Myoung Corporation is proposing to relocate and occupy Room No. 1-1 on the ground floor of an existing building to manufacture and process Noni juice. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1826-2 in Chalan LauLau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1998:** RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is proposing to renovate and occupy three (3) existing one-storey structures with a total of 25 beds for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2248:** Eunice SPN Corporation is proposing to occupy 2 existing one-storey structures with a total of 5 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 399-3-1-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2259:** Yumiko Corporation is proposing to occupy Unit No. GF-1 of the American Tour Inn building to operate a Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop. This project is classified as "Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H 314-2-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2711:** UMDA Wholesale/Retail Inc. dba Island Apparel is proposing to relocate its business from Puerto Rico to Koblerville and occupy an existing one-storey building for manufacturing and processing of apparels. This project is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 023 I 02 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

6. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2834:** American Sinopan, LLC dba Capitol Hill Residence is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit No. 2017- 2409 (Heaven II Resort) to include the construction of 12 residential villas and a clubhouse as part of their Phase II Heaven II project. This use is classified as "Planned Development/Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR22667-2-R1, TR22667-5, and TR22667-R5 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business:

1. Update on proposed amendments to the Zoning Law

E. New Business

1. Review/Update on Sin Ho Nam Litigation
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ *Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman*

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-18-IFB-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A FRONT MOWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TINIAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Supply and Delivery of a Front Mower to the Department of Public Works, Tinian Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 3, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 22, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 29, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-18-IFB-021". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **9:00 a.m. local time September 4, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **9:00 a.m. local time, September 4, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 4, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 12, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **9:00 a.m. local time, September 14, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:00 a.m. local time, on September 3, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply

Nation

US imposing new Russia sanctions over chemical attack

By SUSANNAH GEORGE and
MATTHEW LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States says it will impose new sanctions on Russia for illegally using a chemical weapon in an attempt to kill a former spy and his daughter in Britain earlier this year.

The new sanctions, to be imposed later this month, come despite President Donald Trump's efforts to improve relations with Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin, and his harsh criticism of the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

In response to the announcement, the Russian Embassy in the U.S. issued a statement referring to "far-fetched accusations" and say-

ing Russian officials had yet to hear any facts or evidence and that the U.S. had refused to answer questions.

The State Department said Wednesday the U.S. made the determination this week that Russia had used the Novichok nerve agent to poison Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, and that sanctions would follow. It said Congress is being notified of the Aug. 6 determination and that the sanctions would take effect on or around Aug. 22, when the finding is to be published in the Federal Register.

Those sanctions will include the presumed denial of export licenses for Russia to purchase many items with national security implications, according to a senior State Department

official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to do so by name.

The U.S. made a similar determination in February when it found that North Korea used a chemical weapon to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother at the airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2017.

Skripal and his daughter were poisoned by the Novichok military-grade nerve agent in the English town of Salisbury in March. Britain has accused Russia of being behind the attack, which the Kremlin vehemently denies.

Months later, two residents of a nearby town with no ties to Russia were also poisoned by the deadly toxin. Police

believe the couple accidentally found a bottle containing Novichok. One of them died.

The U.S. had joined Britain in condemning Russia for the Skripal poisoning and joined with European nations in expelling Russian diplomats in response, but it had yet to make the formal determination that the Russian government had "used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law or has used lethal chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals."

In its statement, the Russian Embassy said it had been informed Wednesday of "draconian" sanctions against Russia.

"We grew accustomed to not hearing any facts or evi-

dence. The American side refused to answer our follow-up questions, claiming that the information is classified. However, we were told that the US has enough intel to conclude that Russia is to blame," the embassy said.

Referring to its communications with the State Department on the issue, the embassy added: "We confirmed that we continue to strongly stand for an open and transparent investigation of the crime committed in Salisbury and for bringing the culprits to justice. We suggested publishing our correspondence on this issue. No answer has followed so far."

Several members of Congress had expressed concern that the Trump administration was dragging its feet on

the determination and had missed a deadline to publish its findings.

Lawmakers praised Wednesday's announcement.

"The administration is rightly acting to uphold international bans on the use of chemical weapons," said Ed Royce, R-Calif., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Royce had previously accused Trump of ignoring the Russian nerve agent attack.

"The mandatory sanctions that follow this determination are key to increasing pressure on Russia. Vladimir Putin must know that we will not tolerate his deadly acts, or his ongoing attacks on our democratic process," Royce said Wednesday.

Video shows massacre suspect punching self, speaking softly

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)—Prosecutors on Wednesday released hours of video interrogation of Florida's school shooting suspect, footage showing the young man slouching in a chair, being repeatedly urged by a detective to speak louder and punching himself in the face when he is alone.

The footage contained the same material as a transcript released earlier in the week, and both were edited to remove what authorities say was a direct confession by Nikolas Cruz to the Feb. 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

In other developments, a sheriff leading the state commission investigating the massacre said Wednesday that the suspect's behavior before the shooting was a "roller-coaster," where he would have stretches of good conduct before it deteriorated.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri told the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission that Cruz's fluctu-



In this image made from video provided on Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018, by the Broward County Sheriff's Office, Detective John Curcio, left, talks to Nikolas Cruz at an interrogation room in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. AP

ating behavior through the years made it difficult for school officials to determine how he should be handled. Cruz, a 19-year-old former student at Stoneman Douglas, is charged with killing 17 people in the Valentine's Day attack there.

"It was really a roller-coaster with Cruz really from birth," Gualtieri said. A report released last week by the Bro-

ward County school district said he began showing behavioral issues that got him kicked out of pre-kindergarten. He spent his school years shuttling between regular campuses and those for children with emotional and behavioral problems. "He had some really bad low times but at times he was without behavioral issues," Gualtieri said.

The video made pub-

lic Wednesday shows Cruz hunched over at times, leaning back at others. He is seen wearing hospital clothes and speaking so softly at the beginning that Broward Sheriff's Detective John Curcio has to repeatedly urge him to talk louder. Shortly after entering a small interrogation room, the detective asks Cruz: "You all right? Got to be able to speak so I can hear you."

For now, Army suspends discharges of immigrant recruits

By MARTHA MENDOZA and
GARANCE BURKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. Army has stopped discharging immigrant recruits who enlisted seeking a path to citizenship—at least temporarily.

A memo shared with The Associated Press on Wednesday and dated July 20 spells out orders to high-ranking Army officials to stop processing discharges of men and women who enlisted in the special immigrant program, effective immediately.

It was not clear how many

recruits were impacted by the action, and the Pentagon did not immediately respond to requests for comment about the memo.

"Effective immediately, you will suspend processing of all involuntary separation actions," read the memo signed by Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Marshall Williams.

The disclosure comes one month after the AP reported that dozens of immigrant enlistees were being discharged or had their contracts cancelled. Some said they were

given no reason for their discharge. Others said the Army informed them they'd been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them.

Early last month, the Pentagon said there had been no specific policy change and that background checks were ongoing. And in mid-July the Army reversed one discharge, for Brazilian reservist Lucas Calixto, 28, who had sued. Nonetheless, discharges of other immigrant enlistees

continued. Attorneys sought to bring a class action lawsuit last week to offer protections to a broader group of reservists and recruits in the program, demanding that prior discharges be revoked and that further separations be halted.

A judge's order references the July 20 memo, and asks the Army to clarify how it impacts the discharge status of Calixto and other plaintiffs. As part of the memo, Williams also instructed Army officials to recommend whether the military should issue further guidance related to the program.

Man at compound accused of training kids for school attacks

TAOS, N.M. (AP)—A father arrested at a ramshackle New Mexico compound where 11 hungry children were found living in filth was training youngsters to commit school shootings, prosecutors said in court documents obtained Wednesday.

The allegations against Siraj Ibn Wahhaj came to light as authorities awaited word on whether human remains discovered at the site were those of his missing son, who is severely disabled and went missing in December in Jonesboro, Georgia, near Atlanta.

The documents say Wahhaj was conducting weapons training with assault rifles at the compound on the outskirts of Amalia, a tiny town near the Colorado border marked by scattered homes and sagebrush.

"He poses a great danger to the children found on the property as well as a threat to the community as a whole due to the presence of firearms and his intent to use these firearms in a violent and illegal manner," Prosecutor Timothy Hasson wrote in the court documents Wednesday.

Authorities raided the compound Friday in an investigation that has yielded a series of startling revelations—including the discovery of the 11 children in rags and word that Wahhaj wanted to perform an exorcism on his son because he thought the boy was possessed by the devil.

Prosecutor Timothy Hasson filed the court documents while asking that

Wahhaj be held without bail after he was arrested last week with four other adults at the compound facing child abuse charges.

Prosecutors did not bring up the school shooting accusation during initial court hearings Wednesday for the abuse suspects. A judge ordered them all held without bond pending further proceedings.

In the court documents, authorities said a foster parent of one of the children removed from the compound had told authorities the child had been trained to use an assault rifle in preparation for a school shooting.

Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe previously said adults at the compound were "considered extremist of the Muslim belief." He did not elaborate, saying it was part of the investigation.

Aleks Kostich of the Taos County Public Defender's Office questioned the accusation of a school shooting conspiracy, saying the claim was presented with little information beyond the explanation that it came from a foster parent.

Kostich believes prosecutors are not certain about the credibility of the foster parent, whom he has no way of reaching to verify the claim, he said.

The human remains were being analyzed by medical examiners to determine if they are those of Abdul-ghani Wahhaj, the missing boy.

Earlier this year, his grandfather, Imam Siraj Wahhaj, posted a plea on Facebook for help finding his grandson.

Asia

Quake put life on hold in damaged, hungry Indonesian village

KEKAIT, Indonesia (AP)—

Ever since Rafikah escaped her crumbling home when a massive earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Lombok, life in her lush rural village has come to a screeching halt.

No children are going to school. No adults are working. Nothing is open.

"This quake paralyzed everything," said the traumatized mother of two, who spoke under a large blue tent perched in a field where she and her family have slept since Sunday's 7.0 magnitude quake. "Our lives have just stopped."

The problem in impoverished places like Kekait, where most homes were either destroyed or cracked so badly they're unsafe, is that nobody knows when or even how they'll manage to rebuild.

In the meantime, "there's hardly anyone left in our village," said the 33-year-old mother who grew up there. "It's like a ghost town now."

Rafikah, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, is among at least 156,000 people the National Disaster Mitigation Agency has counted as displaced so far. Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho also said Wednesday the current death toll was 131 with nearly 1,500 severely wounded.

The government and private groups have been stepping up food and medical deliveries across Lombok as the extent of damage has become clearer. The military sent five planes from Jakarta carrying food, medicine, blankets, field tents and water tankers.



A man carries his belongings past the ruin of houses at a village affected by an earthquake in North Lombok, Indonesia, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018.

AP

Some people ventured into their destroyed dwellings for the first time, though, to retrieve valuables and mats and pillows to sleep on.

A handful had not left. Muhammad Muzaki, a 60-year-old construction worker, was one of them. But looking at the remains of his home, he was despondent.

"We will have to demolish it all to rebuild it," he said. "There is no other way. We can't live like this anymore."

Muzaki gestured to his elderly father-in-law, who lay sleeping on a bed. The old man had stitches on his forehead after being injured by falling concrete during the quake. The clinic where he was treated told him to leave because they were overwhelmed with other patients.

Rafikah and her husband, Mulfi Rusiana, returned to the ruins of their own home Tuesday, hoping to find valuables or even clothes to change out of the ones they had worn for four days.

They found little left. The quake destroyed their television, their fridge, their plates and glasses.

Asked when he would be able to rebuild their home, Rusiana said it was impossible to say. "We can't do it without government help. We don't have enough money."

Rafikah said that despite their losses, she was grateful they were all safe.

"You can buy new things and replace what you lost," said. "But you can't replace your family."

They do not feel safe because they don't feel this is over."

The government has measured more than 300 aftershocks since Sunday's quake. The latest, on Wednesday morning, sent panicked residents of Kekait running into open areas for safety. No new injuries were reported.

While hundreds of residents huddled together under large tents in adjacent fields, most of the village's normally bustling streets were empty, littered with rubble and debris and doorways opened onto leveled homes without roofs.

TOKYO (AP)—Nagasaki marked the anniversary of the world's second atomic bombing Thursday with the United Nations' chief and the city's mayor urging global leaders to take concrete steps toward world nuclear disarmament.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the first United Nations chief to visit Nagasaki, said fears of nuclear war are still present 73 years after the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings and that they should never be repeated. He raised concerns about the slowing effort to denuclearize, saying existing nuclear states are modernizing their arsenals.

"Disarmament processes have slowed and even come to a halt," Guterres told the audience at the Nagasaki peace park. "Here in Nagasaki, I call on all countries to commit to nuclear disarmament and to start making visible progress as a matter of urgency." Then he added: "Let

us all commit to making Nagasaki the last place on earth to suffer nuclear devastation."

The peace and nuclear disarmament movement, started by survivors of the atomic bombings, has spread around the world but frustration over the slow progress led to last year's adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Japan, despite being the only country in the world to have suffered nuclear attacks, has not signed the treaty, because of its sensitive position as an U.S. ally protected by its nuclear umbrella.

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue urged Japan's government to do more to lead nuclear disarmament, especially in the region to help advance the efforts to achieve a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. He said citizens of the atomic-bombed cities are hoping to see North Korea denuclearized.

Taue said he hoped Japan's

government would take the opportunity to realize a nuclear-free Northeast Asia, including Japan and the Korean Peninsula.

Taue urged Tokyo to sign the treaty and "fulfill its moral obligation to lead the world towards denuclearization." He said more than 300 local assemblies have adopted resolutions calling on Japan to sign and ratify the treaty.

Japan seeks to close the gaps between nuclear and non-nuclear states to eventually achieve a nuclear-free world, said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, repeating almost the same phrase he used in his speech three days ago in Hiroshima.

The bombing of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, was the second U.S. nuclear attack on Japan, killing 70,000 people, three days after the bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed 140,000. They were followed by Japan's surrender, ending World War II.

Nagasaki marks 73 years since A-bombing as UN chief attends



People sing in front of Peace Memorial Statue at Peace Park in Nagasaki, southern Japan, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018, marking the 73rd anniversary of U.S. bombing on the city.

AP

World

Argentine Senate rejects historic abortion law

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's Senate has rejected a bill to legalize elective abortion in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.

The issue has divided the

Israel faces crocodile conundrum with stranded reptiles

PETZAL, West Bank (AP)—An Israeli businessman appears to have bitten off more than he can chew with plans for a crocodile farm in a West Bank settlement.

Hundreds of crocodiles have been stranded at the farm in a remote spot in the Jordan Valley—left behind by a pair of failed business ventures.

The crocodiles were brought to the settlement of Petzal in the mid-1990s as a tourist attraction. Ensuing Israeli-Palestinian violence kept visitors away, prompting the crocodiles' purchase by entrepreneur Gadi Biton,

homeland of Pope Francis. Lawmakers debated for more than 15 hours and voted Thursday 31 in favor to 38 against.

Crowds of supporters and

who hoped to sell them for their skin.

But his venture flopped after Israel passed a law in 2012 defining the crocodile as a protected animal, and banning raising the animals for sale as meat or merchandise. Multiple attempts to sell them abroad have failed.

"We found ourselves with hundreds of crocodiles in this farm that no one knows what to do with," said David Elhayani, head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council. A lone worker feeds the animals dead chickens once every eight days.

Dozens of the crocodiles lazed recently on the sun-

opponents of the measure braved the heavy rain to watch the debate on large screens set up outside Congress.

The lower house of Congress had already passed the

baked shores of a lagoon on the property, their jaws ajar, revealing menacing teeth.

The animals have become a pain for the owner, the region and Israel. Dozens of crocodiles have escaped on two occasions, including once when 70 flew the coop only to be found after a three-day croc-hunt. The reptiles, which can live well into their 70s, are also reproducing. Their numbers are expected to grow to the thousands in the coming years.

"I don't want to think of what will happen if a crocodile manages to escape and reaches the Jordan River, and then we'll have an inter-

measure and President Mauricio Macri had said that he would sign it.

Argentina now allows the procedure only in cases of rape or risks to a woman's health.

Australia strips citizenship from five Islamic State supporters

CANBERRA, Australia

(AP)—Five former dual nationals have been stripped of their Australian citizenship due to their involvement with the Islamic State group overseas, a government minister said Thursday.

A total of six people have now lost their Australian citizenship since the law was changed in 2015 to enable dual nationals to lose their citizenship rights for actions contrary to their allegiance to Australia, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said.

"I can confirm that five more individuals have ceased to be Australian citizens because of their involvement with Islamic State offshore," Dutton said in a statement.

Dutton did not identify the five. The Daily Telegraph newspaper in Sydney said they were three men and two women who had flown to Syria and Iraq to join Islamic State group fighters.

It is not clear when they traveled to the Middle East and when they lost their citizenship.

Australia Broadcasting Corp. said they were aged in their 20s and 30s and might not be aware that they were no longer Australian. Intelligence agencies began investigating them last year, the ABC said.

"We've arrived at a position now where it's clear through their own conduct these people have renounced their Australian citizenship. They don't deserve to be Australian citizens and in our judgment they would pose a great threat if they were to return to Australia,"

Dutton told ABC.

The first person to lose Australian citizenship under the law was Sydney-born convicted terrorist Khaled Sharrouf. Sharrouf, 36, slipped out of Australia in 2013 on his brother's passport because his own had been canceled because of his conviction for his part in a thwarted terrorist attack plot. He was left with Lebanese citizenship after his Australian citizenship was canceled in January last year.

Sharrouf horrified the world in 2014 when he posted on social media a photograph of his young son clutching the severed head of a Syrian soldier.

Then-U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry described that image as "one of the most disturbing, stomach-turning, grotesque photographs ever displayed."

Under section 35 of the Australian Citizenship Act, a dual national's Australian citizenship automatically ceases if they act contrary to their allegiance to Australia by engaging in terrorism-related conduct.

This includes those who fight for or who are in the service of a declared terrorist organization overseas. The Islamic State group was declared a terrorist organization for these purposes since May 2016.

"It is opposed to Australia, its people and its democratic rights and privileges," Dutton said in a statement.

"The government is determined to deal with foreign terrorist fighters as far from our shores as possible," he added.



Venezuela ruling party cracks down on opposition lawmakers

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

—Venezuela's pro-government constitutional assembly stripped two opposition lawmakers of their immunity from prosecution on Wednesday, accusing them of having roles in a drone attack that authorities say was an attempt to kill socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

The National Constituent Assembly voted unanimously to lift the protection for Julio Borges and Juan Requesens, who have seats in the opposition-controlled legislature. The move came after the Su-

preme Court ordered the arrest of Borges, who lives in exile in Colombia's capital, Bogota.

Requesens was arrested Tuesday, an action captured in a video circulating on social media. His party, Justice First, confirmed that the video showed Requesens.

Maduro has accused the two of being tied to a weekend incident in which two drones loaded with explosives exploded while he spoke at an outdoor military celebration.

Wednesday's developments threaten to deepen Venezuela's political crisis as opposition

lawmakers accuse the government's ruling party of using the alleged attack to clamp down on the opposition.

Constituent Assembly leader Diosdado Cabello said Borges and Requesens were just the first lawmakers to be accused in the investigation of the incident.

"These are the first two who appear to be involved, but the investigation continues," Cabello said. "Justice is coming."

In ordering the 48-year-old Borges' arrest, the supreme court accused him of "flagrant crimes," including public in-

citement, treason to the fatherland and attempted homicide.

During a national television broadcast on Tuesday, Maduro accused Requesens, 29, and Borges of complicity in the weekend drone explosions.

Maduro said statements from some of the six suspects arrested earlier had implicated the two lawmakers, as well as key financiers.

"Several of the declarations indicated Julio Borges. The investigations point to him," Maduro said, though he provided no details of Borges' alleged role.

Tehran cafe run by disabled raises spirits, combats stigma

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A

popular cafe in Tehran's busy Vanak Square is entirely run by people with Down syndrome or autism.

More than just providing meaningful work, the place is also helping break down barriers by highlighting how capable people with disabilities are.

And it's instilling those working there with newfound confidence and self-esteem.

With the restoration of American sanctions that were

suspended under the 2015 nuclear deal, and unemployment at 12.5 percent, jobs are hard to come by in Iran—something especially difficult for those with disabilities.

The cafe is named "Downtism Cafe"—combining "Down" with "autism"—and it's bustling. It opened three months ago with a staff of 10 but has been so popular that 40 people, mostly teenagers and adults in their 20s, now work there.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Michigan twins from different parties advance in election

KENTWOOD, Mich. (AP)—Twin sisters from different political parties are a step closer to public office in western Michigan. Monica Sparks, a Democrat, and her Republican sister, Jessica Ann Tyson, won their party's nomination Tuesday during the Michigan primary election. They'll now advance to the November election for seats on the Kent County Board of Commissioners. It's possible that Sparks and Tyson could serve together because they're running in different districts in the Grand Rapids area. Sparks says she decided to run for office when her sister declared her candidacy. They say they were adopted into a family that taught them to pay attention to government and public affairs.

No kidding: Dozens of goats chow down in Idaho neighborhood

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—About 100 escaped goats munched on manicured lawns in Idaho's capital city before being rounded up and hauled away Friday morning. Multiple news outlets captured the goats calmly eating grass and shrubs in a Boise neighborhood before a trailer arrived amid applause from neighborhood residents. The goats had been corralled near a local retention pond to eat weeds and other overgrowth, but—perhaps noticing the grass was greener next door—broke through a wooden fence to roam the neighborhood. Kim and Matt Gabica own the animals as part of their business called We Rent Goats. They gathered the docile herd and said all 118 of the goats were accounted for.

Colorado college reprinting up to 9.2K diplomas to fix typo

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado university is offering to reprint up to 9,200 diplomas after the outgoing editor of the school newspaper found a big typo. Alec Williams was checking to make sure his name was spelled correctly on his Colorado Mesa University diploma when he noticed it said "Coard of Trustees" instead of "Board of Trustees" in Old English font. Williams told The Daily Sentinel he laughed, but then got frustrated because he had \$30,000 in student loans and a diploma with a typo. CMU President Tim Foster says the university is sending corrected diplomas to 2018 graduates and will offer them to graduates as far back as 2012. They cost \$5 each, so the university could

spend nearly \$46,000. Foster says CMU designs its diplomas "so this mistake is all ours."

Holy cow! Bovine herd helps police corral suspect in Florida

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—A herd of 16 cows helped police officers in Florida corral a fleeing suspect who bailed out of a car and ran through a pasture. A Seminole County Sheriff's helicopter captured the Sunday night incident on video as the crew gave play-by-play to officers on the ground. A crew member offered this nugget to pursuing officers: "If you see a large group of cows, they're literally following her." The cows eventually ran Jennifer Anne Kaufman into a fence, where police were waiting to arrest her. An arrest report shows the car Kaufman was in crashed during a police pursuit. A second suspect was captured by a K-9 and arrested. Kaufman is being held on a \$4,500 bond. Charges against her include resisting an officer and drug possession.

Driver's test arrest: Pot, gun, cash found in smelly car

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (AP)—A 22-year-old man who went for his driver's test left in handcuffs after the examiner became suspicious about a certain odor emanating from the car. News outlets report the examiner alerted a trooper at the Motor Vehicle Administration office, who searched the car. A Maryland State Police report says the search found nearly a pound of marijuana, a scale, more than \$15,000 in cash and a handgun loaded with a 30-round magazine. Reginald D. Wooding Jr. of Baltimore did not get his driver's license on Monday, but he did get arrested on multiple counts. It's unclear whether he has a lawyer.

Cardinals challenge fans to eat \$75 belly busting burger

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona Cardinals fans can reap a reward while expanding their waistlines watching football this season. University of Phoenix Stadium will serve the seven-pound (3 kilograms) Gridiron Burger for \$75. It features five 1/3 pound burger patties, five all-beef hot dogs, five bratwursts, 20 slices of American cheese, eight slices of bacon, eight chicken tenders, 12 ounces of fries, lettuce, pickles and tanker sauce, on a 10-inch bun. Executive chef Sean Kavanaugh tells the Arizona Republic he hasn't figured out the calories. He says three staff members tried it on Monday, but none finished. Those who can

finish in under an hour will receive a Cardinals jersey and get their photo on the scoreboard.

Beauty queen resigns title rather than cover tattoos

PHELAN, Calif. (AP)—A beauty queen in the Southern California desert community of Phelan has given up her crown rather than cover up her tattoos. Sierra Leyde didn't have tattoos when she was named Miss Phelan at age 17. But she celebrated her 18th birthday with tattoos of flowers on her upper arm and shoulder, and a shark on her forearm. The Phelan Chamber of Commerce then asked her to sign a contract saying she would keep the tattoos covered while in her sash and crown. Leyde tells KCBS-TV she doesn't think she should have to cover up because tattoos are now normal, but she decided to drop her title. The chamber says it has no issues with a Miss Phelan having tattoos, other than asking that they be covered during official events.

2 lives down, 7 to go: Cat survives being hit twice by cars

GRAFTON, N.Y. (AP)—A cat named Harley has used up two of its nine lives after surviving being hit by two vehicles on an upstate New York road. State police say they recently received a report of a cat being struck by two vehicles in the rural town of Grafton, just outside Albany. When a trooper arrived on the scene, the cat was lying on the side of the road with head and leg injuries. The drivers said the cat ran into the road, where it was hit by one car and thrown into the path of the second vehicle. The trooper took the cat to a nearby animal hospital. Its owner was found via Facebook. The cat's owner told the trooper that Harley is doing well and is expected to fully recover.

Man who harassed Yellowstone bison arrested at Glacier park

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. (AP)—An Oregon man who was caught on video harassing a bison in Yellowstone National Park was arrested in Glacier National Park in the third disturbance in less than a week at a national park, officials said Friday. Rangers looking for Raymond Reinke of Pendleton, Oregon, found him causing a disturbance Thursday evening at the historic Many Glacier Hotel in the popular Montana park, the National Park Service said. He remains jailed pending a hearing next week.

Science & Technology

Robots now getting more social. Are people ready?



AP
In this Monday, July 30, 2018, photo, Anki Inc. CEO Boris Sofman holds Vector, the company's new home robot, in New York.

BOSTON (AP)—Personal

home robots that can socialize with people are starting to roll out of the laboratory and into our living rooms and kitchens. But are humans ready to invite them into their lives?

It's taken decades of research to build robots even a fraction as sophisticated as those featured in popular science fiction. They don't much resemble their fictional predecessors; they mostly don't walk, only sometimes roll and often lack limbs. And they're nowhere close to matching the language, social skills and physical dexterity of people.

Worse, they're so far losing out to immobile smart speakers made by Amazon, Apple and Google, which

cost a fraction of what early social robots do, and which are powered by artificial-intelligence systems that leave many robots' limited abilities in the dust.

That hasn't stopped ambitious robot-makers from launching life-like robots into the market—albeit with mixed results so far.

Two pioneers in a new vanguard of cute, sociable robots—Jibo, a curvy talking speaker, and Kuri, a cartoonish wheeled "nanny"—have been early casualties. The makers of Vector, a less expensive home robot that was unveiled Wednesday, hope theirs will be a bigger hit.

Still others, including a rumored Amazon project and robots designed to provide companionship for senior citizens, remain in the devel-

opment phase.

"I think we're going to start seeing some come to market this year," said Vic Singh, a founding general partner of Eniac Ventures, which has invested in several robotics startups. But they'll be limited to very specific uses, he warned.

Hopes for social robots keep outpacing reality. Late last year, the squat, almost featureless Jibo graced the cover of Time Magazine's "best inventions" edition. Its creator, MIT robotics researcher Cynthia Breazeal, told The Associated Press at the time that "there's going to be a time when everybody will just take the personal robot for granted."

That time has not yet arrived.

Jibo, a foot-high, vaguely conical device topped by a wide hemispherical "head," stays where you put it, typically on a countertop. But it can swivel its flat, round screen "face" to meet your gaze; tells joke and plays music; and can shimmy convincingly if you ask it to dance. It was pitched as "the world's first social robot for the home."

At almost \$900, though, Jibo didn't win anywhere near enough friends. It's still for sale online, but its parent company reportedly laid off much of its workforce in June and didn't reply to requests for comment.

"It's a really cool device, but it didn't offer a ton of utility," Singh said.

In late July, another startup, California-based Mayfield Robotics, ceased

manufacturing Kuri, a roving \$699 machine that would shoot pictures and video from cameras hidden behind its round, blinking eyes. Other home robots, such as the three-foot, video-screen equipped personal assistant Temi (\$1,499) and Sony's dog-like Aibo (\$1,800), are even less affordable.

"You cannot sell a robot for \$800 or \$1,000 that has capabilities of less than an Alexa," said Boris Sofman, CEO of Anki, which plans to launch its pet-like Vector this fall.

Promising a robotic future beyond "puck-like vacuum cleaners and lifeless cylindrical talking speakers," Anki is pitching the \$249 Vector as an older brother to its tiny—and feisty—toy robot Cozmo.

Both robots are tiny enough to fit in your palm. They scoot around on tank treads and chirp more than talk, but Vector can answer basic questions, set a timer or deliver messages from email and texts. It can rest on a tabletop until it hears a door open or, using facial recognition, "sees" a familiar person in view. It purrs when you rub its gold-plated back.

Social robots trace their lineage back to an interactive humanoid head named Kismet, which Breazeal built in an MIT lab in the 1990s. Since then, advances in artificial intelligence have propelled the field forward. The popularity of Alexa and its ilk has also helped take the strangeness out of talking machines.

Life & Style

Backlash follows the addition of popular film Oscar category

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Big changes are coming to the Academy Awards, including the addition of a popular film award category and the promise of a shorter ceremony in an effort to combat declining viewership and criticisms that the awards are out of touch with the mainstream. But the Wednesday morning announcement was also met with immediate backlash online, raising questions about what the new category would mean for a film like “Black Panther,” a global blockbuster which has also been talked about as a favorite contender for the best picture Oscar.

John Bailey, the newly re-elected president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and film Academy CEO Dawn Hudson said in an email to members Wednesday morning that the Board of Governors met



Tuesday night to approve the changes, which also included bumping the 2020 ceremony up to Feb. 9. The date for the 2019 show, Feb. 24, remains

unchanged.

“We have heard from many of you about improvements needed to keep the Oscars and our Academy relevant in a

changing world,” Hudson and Bailey wrote.

The new film category quickly drew negative attention, with “popular film”

‘Superman’ actress Margot Kidder’s death ruled a suicide

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—“Superman” actress Margot Kidder’s death has been ruled a suicide, and her daughter said Wednesday it’s a relief to finally have the truth out.

Kidder, who played Lois Lane opposite Christopher Reeve’s Superman in her most famous role, was found by a friend in her Montana home on May 13.

At the time, Kidder’s manager, Camilla Fluxman Pines, said Kidder died peacefully in her sleep.

A statement released Wednesday by Park County coroner Richard Wood said the 69-year-old Kidder “died as a result of a self-inflicted drug and alcohol overdose” and that no further details would be released.

Maggie McGuane, Kidder’s daughter by her ex-husband



Kidder

Thomas McGuane, told The Associated Press in a phone interview that she knew her mother died by suicide the moment authorities took her to Kidder’s home in Livingston, a small town near Yellowstone National Park.

“It’s a big relief that the truth is out there,” she said. “It’s important to be open and honest so there’s not a cloud of shame in dealing with this.”

Kidder’s death is one of several high-profile suicides this year that include celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain and fashion designer Kate Spade.

McGuane noted that Montana has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation and she urged people with mental illness to seek help.

“It’s a very unique sort of grief and pain,” McGuane said. “Knowing how many families in this state go through this, I wish that I could reach out to each one of them.”

Kidder struggled with mental illness much of her life, and it was made worse by a 1990 car accident that left her in debt and led to her using a wheelchair for almost two years.

Kidder and Reeve starred in four Superman movies between 1978 and 1987. She also appeared in “The Great Waldo Pepper” with Robert Redford in 1975, Brian De Palma’s “Sisters” in 1973 and “The Amityville Horror” in 1979.

She later appeared in small

films and television shows until 2017, including “R.L. Stine’s the Haunting Hour.” She received a Daytime Emmy Award as outstanding performer in a kids’ series in 2015 for that role.

Kidder, a native of Yellowknife, Canada, was a political activist who was arrested in 2011 in a Washington, D.C., protest over the proposed Keystone XL pipeline from Canada’s oil sands.

Her final years were troubled by conflicts with people who were down on their luck that she took into her home. Between August 2016 and her death in May, authorities were called to her house 40 times on reports of people trespassing, theft and other disturbances, according to police logs released to the AP under a public-records request.

Spike Lee on ‘BlacKkKlansman’: Don’t call it a comeback

NEW YORK (AP)—Spike Lee heard the whispers.

Just a few years ago, some were suggesting that Lee was no longer the essential filmmaker he had once been. There had been critical and box-office disappointments. He was hunting for funding on Kickstarter. His remake of the Korean classic “Oldboy” was re-edited against his wishes.

As Lee readies his latest “BlacKkKlansman,” his incendiary satire of white supremacy, those whispers are



Lee

long gone. If it ever didn’t, the phrase “a Spike Lee joint” again carries with it something urgent and vital.

“What’s the famous Mark Twain quote? My demise has been greatly exaggerated? A couple (people) had written me off. I’m done. Over! Not relevant!” said Lee in a recent interview, with a prolonged cackle. “But you know what? They don’t know! Count me out if you want to! Come on, I’m in Brooklyn! We go hard!”

At the suggestion that the change has been less his than

America’s—some have said the culture caught up to him, rather than vice versa—Lee reaches a still higher pitch.

“Well, I got another hundred yards!” exclaims the 61-year-old filmmaker, roaring with laughter at the discovery of one of his favorite things: a good sports metaphor. “I got me another Usain Bolt hundred yards!”

Lee was introduced to the story of “BlacKkKlansman” by Jordan Peele (“Get Out”) who called up Lee with the true-life tale of African-American police detective Ron Stallworth, who in 1979 infiltrated a Colorado Springs,

Colorado, cell of the Ku Klux Klan. There was already a script, but Lee reworked it with Kevin Willmott to add what he calls “more flavor.”

And while the crew is peopled by longtime collaborators of Lee’s, the cast is full of, as Lee says, “new blood.” John David Washington, the eldest son of Lee’s go-to leading man, Denzel Washington, stars as Stallworth. (“You can’t write that stuff!” says Lee of his second-generation Washington star.) The other top roles are also Spike Lee joint newbies: Adam Driver plays a fellow detective; Topher Grace plays former KKK leader David Duke.

In this Feb. 21, 2015 file photo, an Oscar statue appears outside the Dolby Theatre for the 87th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. AP

becoming a trending topic on Twitter by Wednesday afternoon.

“Five Came Back” author Mark Harris tweeted that the popular film award, “Is a ghetto and will be perceived that way.”

Actor Rob Lowe tweeted that “The film business passed away today with the announcement of the “popular” film Oscar. It had been in poor health for a number of years. It is survived by sequels, tent-poles, and vertical integration.”

The addition of the popular film category, a clear effort to attract a larger audience to the ABC broadcast by honoring bigger and more seen films, led many to wonder whether a film like “Black Panther” would be ineligible for best picture and relegated to the popular film award because of its size and success, or lead to inadvertent segmenting by film academy voters.

Bailey and Hudson said eli-

gibility requirements will be determined at a later date, but it is worth noting that other top film categories like best animated feature and best foreign language film don’t prohibit a best picture nomination. “Toy Story 3” was nominated for both best picture and best animated feature. It also wasn’t specified whether it would be added for the 91st Academy Awards this February.

The division is not without precedent either. The first Academy Awards ceremony in 1929 actually did give out two top awards, one for Outstanding Picture and one for Unique and Artistic Picture to recognize both art films and epics, but the Unique and Artistic category was dropped the next year.

Ratings for the 90th Academy Awards fell to an all-time low of 26.5 million viewers, down 19 percent from the previous year and the first time the glitzy awards ceremony had fewer than 30 million viewers since 2008. Hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, the ceremony also clocked it at nearly four hours, making it the longest show in over a decade.

Brad Pitt says he has given Jolie Pitt millions since split

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brad Pitt said in court documents Wednesday that he has given estranged wife Angelina Jolie Pitt more than \$1 million and lent her another \$8 million since their separation two years ago, countering her assertion from a day earlier saying he has paid “no meaningful child support.”

Pitt’s attorneys said in the two-page document filed in Los Angeles Superior Court that he “adamantly disputes the contention that he has not paid significant child support.”

The document added that he loaned Jolie Pitt \$8 million to buy her current home, and has paid over \$1.3 million in bills for the benefit of Jolie Pitt and their six children.

Jolie Pitt’s attorneys said in their own court filing Tuesday that Pitt has failed to live up to their informal financial arrangements and she’ll seek a court order to get retroactive payments from him.

Pitt’s attorneys said in documents they filed for him that Jolie Pitt’s lawyers have made no mention that she had any problems with the amounts he has given her for the children. It’s not clear

what child-support arrangements the couple has in place during the divorce process.

The two filings were rare unsealed public documents in the case that gave a glimpse into the slow-moving divorce of the 54-year-old actor Pitt and the 43-year-old actress and director Jolie Pitt.

Pitt’s attorneys said the filing was utterly unnecessary and “a thinly veiled effort to manipulate media coverage” of the split.

Jolie Pitt’s filing also said she wanted to have the couple’s marriage dissolved by the end of the year by separating some of the lingering issues to be resolved later. Neither side specified what those issues were.

Pitt’s lawyers answered that the actor actually suggested expediting the divorce in this way, and had already agreed to it.

Jolie Pitt’s filing requested a case management hearing to discuss the issues of child support and finalizing the divorce soon. Pitt’s response said that a status conference that is already scheduled would serve the same purpose.

Jolie Pitt’s attorneys did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

Bill Clinton's debut novel is a million seller

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill Clinton is a now a million-selling novelist.

"The President is Missing," a thriller co-written with James Patterson, has more than 1 million combined hardcover, e-book and audio sales in North America alone since coming out June 4. The book is Clinton's first of work of fiction, but in Patterson he had one of the world's most prolific and successful novelists for a collaborator.

Reviews were mixed, but Barnes & Noble fiction buyer Sessalee Hensley said in a statement released Wednesday by co-publishers Alfred A. Knopf and Little Brown and Co. that "The President is Missing" had benefited from "very strong" word of mouth.

"In a summer marked by nonfiction successes, this novel has proven to have remarkable legs," Hensley said.

The book's subject has also proved timely: a poten-

tially devastating cyberattack, which intelligence experts have called a leading concern. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said in mid-July that "the warning lights are blinking red" about a possible attack and called Russia

the "most aggressive foreign actor, no question."

The Clinton-Patterson novel has dominated fiction charts. According to NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the hardcover and paperback

market, "The President is Missing" is by far the year's biggest fiction seller and the only fiction work to crack the top 10 of the best-sellers overall for 2018. Nonfiction releases such as Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury" and

James Comey's "A Higher Loyalty" have been attracting the most sales.

Clinton, whose previous books include the memoir "My Life," is now the rare author to have million sellers in fiction and nonfiction.

Terry Crews: It's 'summer of freedom' for abuse victims

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Terry Crews said it's "the summer of freedom" for him and others who have gone public with accounts of alleged molestation.

"We can now tell our truth" and not see our lives upended, the former NFL player and actor said Wednesday. He called it "just the beginning of change."

The entertainment industry and beyond will be safer, including for "my wife, for my son and for my daughter," he said.

Crews made his remarks

during a panel promoting NBC's sitcom "Brooklyn Nine-Nine." Support from his cast mates made him feel secure enough to "tell my truth and still go to work," he said, also crediting the example of women in the MeToo movement.

He alleged last year that Hollywood agent Adam Venit groped him at a party, and that top executives at William



Crews

Morris Endeavor failed to discipline Venit. Prosecutors declined to file charges against Venit over the incident, citing the statute of limitations. Crews has filed a civil lawsuit.

Venit, via his attorneys, has denied all of Crews' allegations, saying in court documents that his actions toward Crews were not sexual, and Crews suffered no harm of any kind.

The actor testified earlier this year before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights.

Harassment and abuse allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein have led to numerous women coming forward with allegations of harassment and abuse against powerful men, with Crews among the few men who have added their names to the list of those claiming abuse.

Carrie Underwood, Mike Fisher expecting their second child

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Carrie Underwood says her family is adding "another fish to our pond."

The 35-year-old singer announced Wednesday on Instagram that she and her husband, Mike Fisher, are expecting their second child. She says they are "absolutely over the moon."

Underwood and Fisher, a former NHL player for Ot-

tawa, Canada, and Nashville, Tennessee, have a 3-year-old son, Isaiah.

Underwood's next album, "Cry Pretty," is due out Sept. 14. A tour will follow in 2019. Tickets go on sale Aug. 17.

The seven-time Grammy winner will join Brad Paisley as co-host of the Country Music Association Awards on Nov. 14. It will be their 11th time together.

It's TV love for Schwimmer, Messing on 'Will & Grace'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "Friends" star David Schwimmer will appear on "Will & Grace" as a new love interest for Debra Messing's character.



Schwimmer

NBC said Wednesday that Schwimmer will play opposite Messing's Grace on the sitcom revival that's back Oct. 4 on NBC.

Schwimmer isn't the only

familiar face appearing on the second season. Alec Baldwin, Chelsea Handler and Mary McCormack were previously announced guest stars.

"Friends" and the original "Will & Grace" were teammates on NBC's powerhouse "Must See TV" Thursday night comedy lineup in the 1990s through 2002.

Hey parents: What if there was a machine that could respond to your kids' every command, never tiring, even if they ask it to tell jokes for two hours or answer all their homework questions?

It's a blessing and a curse for moms and dads that machines kind of like that do exist in the form of Google's Assistant and Amazon's Alexa.

These in-house digital assistants don't always understand questions or serve up useful answers (which some parents say is a good thing). But they do create challenges and opportunities for parents—especially those raising younger kids. Even as Amazon and Google are adding options that control access and require kids to speak politely to their

voice-controlled speakers, devices like the Echo Dot and Google Home can make a big and unexpected impact.

It took Mary Beth Foster a few days to notice, but it was undeniable: Her son's first words weren't "goo goo." Her 1-year-old was saying, "Ok, Google," after hearing his parents say it over and over. When she realized that, Foster says, "my husband thought I was nuts. Babies say 'goo' all the time, right? Until he heard him mimic us talking at the Google Home in context."

Meanwhile Foster, who lives in Mint Hill, North Carolina, says the device has created some confusion for her 4-year-old daughter over who, exactly, is in charge. Because the family accesses Netflix, Amazon Prime content and

YouTube TV through their Google Home, their daughter has begun asking questions like, "Mom, can you ask Google if we can watch 'Beauty and the Beast'?"

Speed bumps like this have led some parents to avoid these devices.

Suzanne Brown, mother of two boys ages 7 and 4, is keeping Alexa's seemingly easy answers out of her Austin, Texas, home while her boys are young. She'd prefer to visit the library or search the internet together with her kids to build their "curiosity and problem-solving muscles."

When they have a question, she says, "we try to work through it or go figure out how to find the answer. And we actually go searching for the answer,

and sometimes that leads us to other questions."

But for parents who have invited a digital assistant into their home, here are some of the challenges:

ANSWERS CAN COME QUICKLY, BUT MIGHT BE WRONG OR INCOMPLETE

Are the kids calling out questions and accepting a single response as the entire story, without questioning where that answer comes from? Alexa's info most often comes from Wikipedia, which kids may not know isn't always accurate.

On the bright side, if a child is calling out a question—rather than silently typing it into a device—a parent can hear it and engage.

One-way friendship ends, but feelings of guilt remain

DEAR ABBY: My "friend" from childhood, "Camille," has never had my back. I have done the heavy lifting in our friendship our whole lives.

While I was on vacation two years ago, she was diagnosed with cancer. I came home immediately and drove to the hospital at 1 a.m. to be by her side. I've always been by Camille's side for everything, even though she hasn't been there for me. I told her that several times, to no avail.

I went to EVERY chemo and doctor appointment, and was there every day to rub her feet to make her feel better. I threw her a party for 100 people to "kick cancer's butt," took her on a vacation—it goes on and on.

I ended the one-sided friendship last year. My problem is, I feel guilty for doing it. I feel I left her with cancer. But I also feel that because someone is sick doesn't give them the right to be abusive or inconsiderate. Camille hasn't tried to contact me, either. In fact, she has told others that she will never speak to me again.

I bent over backward for her, but if some other person sent a card, she would make a big deal out of it. I'm deeply hurt and don't know how to move on. Help!

WOUNDED ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR WOUNDED: One way to stop feeling guilty and get on with your life would be to acknowledge in your head AND your heart that the relationship with Camille was not

a healthy one for YOU. In fact, from the way you have described it, it was more like a bad habit.

Bad habits can be difficult to break, but many people have been able to accomplish it by replacing a bad habit with a good one. Example: Instead of feeling guilty for not rubbing Camille's feet, consider getting a pedicure for yourself. Although it might seem expensive, it would be cheaper than talking to a therapist.

DEAR ABBY: My siblings and I, all born in the '50s in a small town, have fond memories of our childhood. After our mother died in 1989, our father married "Sylvia," a new arrival in town. They lived together in our childhood home until his death in 2016.

We "kids" wanted to honor our parents and our fond childhood memories. We endowed a plaque for the town park dedicated to their memory and noting they had raised a family in that community. Sylvia is now grievously offended and furious that she was not included.

Abby, Sylvia came on the scene long after we were raised and gone. She's not our parent and played no part in the memories we wanted to honor. Although Sylvia was a good wife to our dad, she did her best to erase all traces of our mother from Dad's memory and from his home. Were we wrong? She has rebuffed our attempts to explain our benign motivations.

CONFUSED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR CONFUSED: You weren't wrong, but it would have been better had you discussed your plans for the plaque with Sylvia before donating it. That way, you would have been able to explain to her the reason why she wouldn't be on it. She may still be grieving the loss of your father, so try to understand her feelings.

And by the way, it is not unusual—or out of line—for a second wife to make her husband's home "her own," so don't hold it against her.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

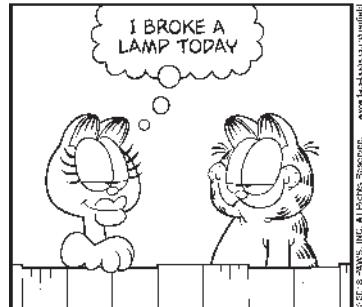
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



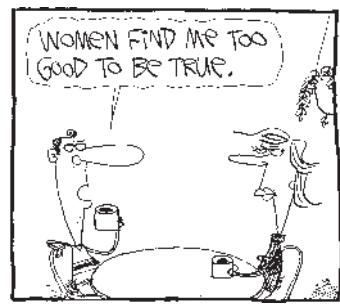
Adam@home



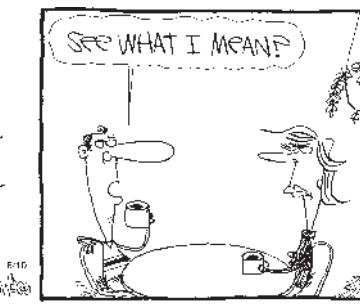
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

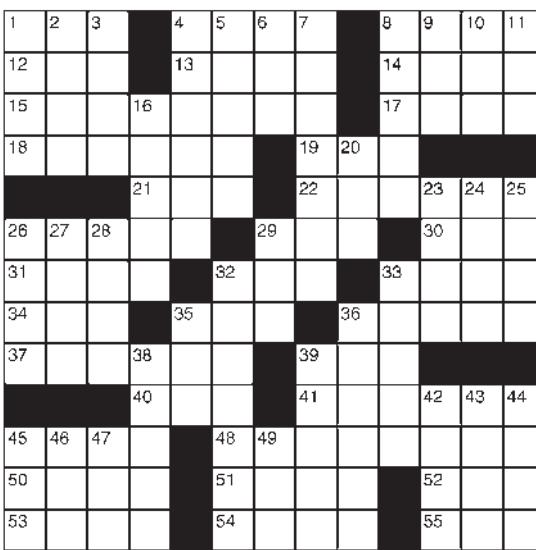


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	"Swan Lake"	2	Caesar's	23	Walked (on)
1 Use a shovel	shovel	princess	3	Richard	24	Scrabble piece
4 Type of dancer	39	Tampa Bay	40	"Chicago"	25	"Zounds!"
8 "Toodle-oo!"	NFLer	41	That girl	26	Popular cookie	
12 Language suffix	45	Andean	42	Coot	27	Frigid
13 Nobel Prize subj.	land	43	Understood	28	Cool veggie	
14 Last write-up	48	French loaf	44	Square dance group	29	24 hours
15 Hair holder	50	Dutch cheese	45	Like the Cyclops	30	Icy dessert
17 500 sheets	51	Rim	46	Rich cake	31	Secret store
18 Pluck, as eyebrows	52	Sailor's assent	47	Actor Vigoda	32	Fr. holy woman
19 Consume	53	Un-	48	Aunt, in Acapulco	33	Bach compositions
21 Dog doc	54	Playpen	49	Cash dispenser	34	Hitch-hiker's digit
22 Actress Mimieux	55	Lair	50	Skit show	35	Hardly snug
26 Transpire	1	Arrears	51	Gardner of film	36	42 Slightly
29 Narc's org.	37	Solution time: 25 mins.	52	10 Aunt, in	37	43 Eyelid woe
30 Predeter- mine	53	RAZOR OK	53	Acapulco	38	44 Adolescent
31 Libertine	54	F	54	11 Cash dispenser	39	45 Signing need
32 Melancholy	55	X	55	16 Skit show	40	46 Sch. URL ender
33 Pop choice	56	Z	56	20 Gardner of film	41	47 Zodiac animal
34 Wapiti	57	OK	57	12 Arrears	42	49 Hubbub
35 Bashful	58		58			
36 Lost color	59		59			

Yesterday's answer 8-10

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Angie Harmon, 45; Justin Theroux, 47; Antonio Banderas, 58; Rosanna Arquette, 59.
Happy Birthday: Accept the inevitable and set your sights on what's possible. Know what you are up against. Refuse to let anyone push you into something that could leave you in a vulnerable position. Act on facts. Patience will pay off as the year comes to a close. Bide your time, protect your assets and prepare for the future. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 29, 32, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make social plans with friends or sign up to help an organization or cause you care about. The people you encounter may be demanding, but the experience you gain will be to your advantage. Romance will improve your personal life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Learn as you go. Listen to the voice of reason as well as the experts. Control your intake at social events. Too much of anything can lead to an argument or damage to your reputation. Stubbornness and being opinionated are discouraged.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Participate in functions that include friends or relatives. Short trips will lead to a change in the way you view someone. A past relationship will cause you to overreact to something that's said. Think before you say something insensitive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't hide from change. You stand to gain from what transpires. Embrace what comes your way with open arms; you will realize the benefits that come with new beginnings. A partnership with

someone special looks promising.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think big, but live within your means. Change can be made as long as you are cognizant of what is and is not doable. Personal physical improvements are favored, along with romance, children and pleasure trips. Physical activity will ease stress.

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't give in to someone pestering you for something you find unreasonable. Concentrate on bringing about positive changes at home that will allow you to spend more time with friends and family and less time taking care of business.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Defuse emotional situations instead of encouraging them to escalate. It's easier to handle a small difference of opinion using diplomacy and incentives. Your time is better spent on personal physical improvements and building memories with the ones you love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A joint venture is apparent. Look for an opportunity, and use your intuitive insight to help you decide what to do next. A chance meeting with someone you have enjoyed working with in the past will lead to an interesting proposal.

Birthday Baby: You are proactive, sociable and energetic. You are entertaining and changeable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			9			7		
			4	5				
4		1	2			5		
	2	7			8	3		
	9	8			5	4		
1		5	6			3		
	9	3						
4		6				6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	7	2	5	1	6	9	8	4
1	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	4	5	7	8	9	2	1	3
8	5	7	4	2	3	6	9	1
9	3	6	8	7	1	4	2	5
2	1	4	9	6	5	3	7	8
7	9	3	1	4	2	8	5	6
4	2	8	6	5	7	1	3	9
5	6	1	3	9	8	7	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PORTABLE POLICE LABS

Solution: 8 letters

F	E	S	R	E	K	R	A	M	I	C	R	O	O
D	U	S	T	M	E	T	A	L	A	R	E	M	A
C	L	M	M	Z	F	L	A	S	H	L	I	G	H
I	C	T	E	E	T								

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Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
COMMUTER TERMINAL ACCESS ROAD PAVING
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services for this project inclusive of onsite assessment and preparation of plans and specifications for road repair, drainage and resurfacing of the access road leading to the Saipan Commuter Terminal. All work will be performed at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations. Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.enqr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, August 6, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 19, 2018

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
CPA NEW ACCOUNTING OFFICE/
CNMI CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE RENOVATIONS PROJECT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-008-16**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services inclusive of onsite assessments and preparation of plans and specifications for construction of a new 1st floor enclosure for CPA Accounting (West Wing), renovation to the CNMI Customs and Quarantine Office (East Wing), roof leak repairs, removal and application of water proofing membrane at both the East and West Wings (above customs and accounting respectively), and repairs to the male/female baggage claim restrooms.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations. Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.enqr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, August 3, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

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AL East-leading Red Sox beat Blue Jays



TORONTO -- The streaking Red Sox have had plenty to be pleased about in recent weeks.

The return of Rafael Devers gave Boston one more reason to smile.

Devers came off the disabled list and hit a two-run home run, Brian Johnson pitched a season-high seven innings to win his second straight start and the Red Sox extended their winning streak to six games with a 10-5 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday night.

J.D. Martinez had three hits and Xander Bogaerts had three RBI for the AL East-leading Red Sox, who have won 10 of 11.

Devers had been out since July 28 because of a strained left hamstring. He went 2 for 4 with a walk and scored twice.

"I felt good, I gave 100 percent on every play today and nothing bothered me," Devers said through a translator. "I'm just happy to be back and contributing."

He isn't the only one who's happy.

"It's cool to see him around," manager Alex Cora said. "He brings a lot of joy to the game, a lot of smiles in the clubhouse. Everybody is happy. He's like their little brother. For him to go out there and perform, that was good to see."

Outfielder Mookie Betts, who scored a pair of runs, said Devers has an infectious enthusiasm.

"He just brings fun," Betts said. "He's a young kid who laughs and enjoys being around. Anytime you have somebody young like that laughing and enjoying things, it kind of helps you sit back and enjoy it too."

There's been no shortage of things for Boston to enjoy. The Red Sox, who own the best record in the major leagues at 81-34, have won 12 of 15 meetings with Toronto this season.

Toronto, meanwhile, matched a season-worst by falling 11 games below .500 at 51-62.

Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run home run for the Blue Jays, his 17th, and Randal Grichuk added a three-run blast, his 15th. Both homers came off Johnson.

Indians 5, Twins 2

In Cleveland, Francisco Lindor connected for a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning as the Cleveland Indians again moved 10 games ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central with a 5-2 win over the Twins on Wednesday night.

Lindor, who struck out with the winning run at second base in the ninth in a loss on Tues-



AP Boston Red Sox's Xander Bogaerts gets the force out on Toronto Blue Jays' Randal Grichuk at second base and turns the double play on Devon Travis to end the game Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018, in Toronto.

lead in the first.

Pirates 4, Rockies 3

In Denver, Adam Frazier had three hits and made a run-saving play in the field in Pittsburgh's victory over Colorado.

Frazier had two doubles and a single, but made what might have been his biggest contribution in the field. With runners on the corners and two outs in the eighth inning, pinch-hitter Chris Iannetta hit a sharp grounder to the hole at second. Frazier made a diving stop and threw out Iannetta to end the inning and preserve the one-run lead.

Angels 6, Tigers 0

In Anaheim, Justin Upton and Albert Pujols hit back-to-back homers in the fifth inning, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of Detroit.

Kole Calhoun hit a leadoff homer and rookie Jaime Barria (7-7) pitched five-hit ball into the sixth. Los Angeles was in a 1-6 skid before getting back to .500 in the series with the struggling Tigers.

Upton connected on a full-count changeup from Blaine Hardy (4-4) for a two-run homer shortly before Pujols added his 632nd career homer.

Royals 9, Cubs 0

In Kansas City, Heath Fillmyer allowed three singles over seven innings for his first major league win, Adalberto Mondesi and Drew Butera each drove in three, and Kansas City beat Chicago.

Anthony Rizzo drilled Fillmyer (1-1) with a line drive on the left foot on his third pitch, but Fillmyer stuck around and didn't allow another hit until David Bote and Tommy La Stella singled with one out in the seventh inning.

Orioles 5, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Trey Mancini hit a go-ahead two-run double in the ninth inning, and Baltimore beat Tampa Bay despite committing five errors.

It was the first time the Orioles committed five errors in a victory since June 9, 1983.

Sergio Romo (2-3) allowed consecutive hits to Mark Trumbo, Danny Valencia and Mancini in the ninth, the only three batters he faced. It was Romo's seventh blown save.

Tampa Bay has played five straight one-run games and lost four of them.

day, drove the first pitch from Trevor Hildenberger (2-3) over the wall in right to trigger a wild celebration.

Jason Kipnis singled with one out in the ninth before Twins right fielder Max Kepler robbed Yan Gomes of extra bases with a leaping catch before crashing into the wall. Brandon Guyer followed with a single to bring up Lindor, who capped a wild ninth inning with his 29th homer.

Diamondbacks 6, Phillies 0

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin struck out nine in a combined four-hitter, David Peralta had four hits and two RBI, and the Arizona Diamondbacks rolled over the Philadelphia Phillies 6-0 on Wednesday.

Corbin (10-4) had the Phillies guessing most of the game, allowing four hits in 7 1/3 innings while reaching a career-high 183 strikeouts this season. The left-hander did not give up a home run for the ninth straight start, the longest stretch by an Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher since Brandon Webb in 2003.

Peralta hit a two-run triple off Vince Velasquez (8-9) in the third inning, sending the Phillies right-hander to his first loss since June 25.

Braves 8, Nationals 3

In Washington, Ronald Acuna

Jr. hit one of Atlanta's three homers, then took away a long ball from Washington to back Mike Foltynewicz (9-7).

Charlie Culberson and Tyler Flowers also went deep for the Braves. Culberson hit a three-run drive off Tommy Milone (1-1) in the second inning, and it was 7-1 by the fourth. Culberson has homered in three straight games.

Acuna also made a sensational catch in the fourth inning to rob Matt Adams of a home run. Acuna raced to the center-field wall, leaped and snagged the ball with his outstretched glove before sprawling on the warning track.

Mets 8, Reds 0

In New York, Jacob deGrom struck out 10 in six innings, received rare significant run support and earned his first win in nearly two months as New York beat Cincinnati.

DeGrom (6-7) ended a seven-start winless streak, allowing four hits in a 100-pitch outing and lowering his major league-leading ERA to 1.77. He won for the first time since June 18 at Colorado.

Brandon Nimmo tied a team record with three doubles and drove in three runs to help the Mets win for the 22nd time in their last 66 games. Austin Jackson drove in two runs with a double in the second and a single in the fifth as the

Mets built a 5-0 lead. Nimmo hit an RBI double in the fifth and scored on a sacrifice fly by Amed Rosario in the fourth

Cardinals 7, Marlins 1

In Miami, Matt Carpenter hit a tiebreaking homer for the second consecutive night, and St. Louis won its fourth series in a row by beating Miami.

Carpenter put St. Louis ahead with a home run leading off the sixth inning, his NL-leading 31st. The Cardinals' Yadier Molina hit his 15th homer in the first and doubled home two runs in the ninth. Marcell Ozuna doubled home a run in the sixth and went 6 for 11 in the series against his former team.

John Gant (4-4) pitched six innings and allowed one run, which scored in part because of a defensive lapse. He and three relievers combined to retire 21 batters in a row.

Rangers 11, Mariners 7

In Arlington, Joey Gallo homered twice and drove in four runs, Yovani Gallardo won his fourth straight start and Texas held off Seattle.

Gallardo (7-1) leads the majors with seven wins since June 23. He allowed three hits, two runs and three walks while striking out two in six innings.

Gallo has hit 10 of his 31 homers in his past 19 games.

He went 3 for 5 to raise his batting average above .200 for the first time since June 16.

Brewers 8, Padres 4

In Milwaukee, Jesus Aguilar, Travis Shaw and Eric Thames hit consecutive first-inning homers to spoil the debut of San Diego's Brett Kennedy.

Kennedy (0-1), who was 10-0 in 16 starts at Triple-A El Paso before being called up Monday, was tagged for six runs on 11 hits in four innings.

Orlando Arcia and Christian Yelich also homered for Milwaukee, while Hunter Renfroe had a two-run shot for San Diego.

Jhoulys Chacin (11-4) allowed three runs on six hits in six innings to win for the fifth time in six decisions.

Yankees 7, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Luis Severino pitched seven effective innings in his first win in a month, Giancarlo Stanton hit his first grand slam in four years and New York finished a sweep of Chicago.

Aaron Hicks also homered as wild card-leading New York closed out a 3-4 trip with its third consecutive win. Gleyber Torres reached three times on a single and two walks.

Severino (15-5) retired 11 in a row after the White Sox used three straight hits to open a 2-0

LeBron, Warriors highlight NBA TV schedule



LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBA fans will get a smorgasbord of LeBron James in a Los Angeles Lakers uniform, the All-Star laden lineup of the defending champion Golden State Warriors, the Houston Rockets and the up-and-coming Boston Celtics as part of the league's national television schedule.

The NBA released its TV schedule for the first week of the season, Christmas Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Wednesday, and all are prominently featured.

James Harden and the Rockets will appear three times on national television in the opening week of the season, while Lakers, Warriors and Celtics will be featured twice.

The highlight of the coveted Christmas Day games is James facing a familiar foe—Stephen Curry and the Warriors—for a fourth straight year, only this time James will be wearing Lakers' gold and purple rather than the familiar wine and gold colors of the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Warriors, who added center DeMarcus Cousins in the off-season, feature a lineup with five current NBA All-Stars.

The other Christmas Day games include Kyrie Irving and the Celtics hosting the young, but talented Philadelphia 76ers.



LeBron James walks past the crowd before speaking at the opening ceremony for the I Promise School in Akron, Ohio, Monday, July 30, 2018. The I Promise School is supported by the The LeBron James Family Foundation and is run by the Akron Public Schools. AP

Facial recognition system to be used in Olympic security

TOKYO (AP)—A facial recognition system will be used across an Olympics for the first time as Tokyo organizers work to keep security tight and efficient at dozens of venues during the 2020 Games.

The NeoFace technology developed by NEC Corp. will be customized to monitor every accredited person—including athletes, officials, staff and media—at more than 40 venues, games villages and media centers, Olympic and company officials said Tuesday.

Local organizers said Tokyo will be the first Olympic host to introduce the face recognition technology at all venues. The system is expected to effectively eliminate entry with forged IDs, reduce congestion at accredited waiting lines and reduce athletes' stress under hot weather.



the capital would be a big burden in achieving high levels of security.

“By introducing the face recognition system, we hope to achieve high levels of safety, efficiency and smooth operation at security check points before entry,” he said, adding that the system would contribute to less stressful environment for athletes.

Iwashita said a test last year showed gate checks using the facial recognition was more than twice the pace of the conventional system using X-ray with visual siting by security guards.

The facial images of every accredited person for the Olympics and Paralympics will be collected after the approval process and stored in a database to be used to verify identities at accreditation check points.

NEC says its biometric identification technology is used at airports and elsewhere in 70 countries, including Japan.

tokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks visit the New York Knicks and the Portland Trail Blazers visit the Utah Jazz.

The featured MLK day games includes a Warriors-Lakers rematch—this time in Los Angeles—while the 76ers host the Rockets, and Anthony Davis and the New Orleans Pelicans visit the Memphis Grizzlies.

The NBA season begins

Oct. 16 with TNT televising the 76ers at the Celtics and the Thunder at the Warriors. The Pelicans visit the Rockets and Mavericks face the Suns on Oct. 17 on ESPN. On Oct. 18, the Bulls travel to face the 76ers and the Lakers visit the Trail Blazers, which both games on TNT. The Celtics will visit the Raptors on Oct. 19, while the Jazz host the Warriors on ESPN. The first

nationally televised weekend games include the Raptors at the Washington Wizards on NBA TV and Rockets-Lakers Oct. 20 on ESPN, and the Rockets-Los Angeles Clippers Oct. 21 on NBA TV.

The Bucks and Knicks get things going on Christmas day at noon Eastern on ESPN, followed by the Thunder-Rockets at 3 p.m. and 76ers-Celtics at 5:30 p.m. on ABC. The night

Furyk closer to captain's choices for Ryder Cup, Tiger still an option

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Jim Furyk is closing in on his four captain's choices to round out the US Ryder Cup team, but the competition is still open and Tiger Woods remains in the mix.

At a media conference at Bellerive Country Club, site of the US PGA Championship that tees off on Thursday, Furyk talked about his role as captain and how he'll make his picks.

The eight automatic qualifiers for the American team will be set after the conclusion of the final major of the season. Heading into this weekend's action, the top eight in the Ryder Cup points standings are Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Justin Thomas, Patrick Reed, Bubba Watson, Jordan Spieth, Ricky Fowler and Webb Simpson. The former quartet have clinched spots already.

The four golfers ranked ninth to 12th in the standings looking to play their way in this weekend are Bryson DeChambeau, Phil Mickelson,

Xander Schauffele and Matt Kuchar. Woods, mentioned as a possible team member, is 20th in the standings.

“There’s really not a number, [but] has it narrowed down some, I think it has,” Furyk said about his field of potential picks. “You want guys who are in good form from the summertime on, guys who have had a good season.

“I think the list has been narrowed, but it’s still open, if that makes sense.”

Furyk said earlier this year

he talked with Woods, who is a Ryder Cup vice captain, about the possibility of him playing in this year’s event. When a reporter asked Furyk if Woods had done enough already this season to merit a spot on the team, he danced around the question.

“It’s been fun watching him play this summer,” Furyk said. “He knew then that I think he was on the mend and starting to play better. By March I saw



his game was in a lot better shape.

“Trying to interpret whether he’s done enough or hasn’t done enough...that’s a position I don’t have to put myself in right now...but it’s fun to see him put himself in the mix.”

Meanwhile, Justin Rose skipped playing practice rounds for the PGA Championship, preferring instead to rest a sore back that forced him to withdraw from last week’s WGC-Bridgestone Invitational.

He walked each nine at Bellerive Country Club, though, and he thinks that’s good enough.

“The great thing is I haven’t hit a bad shot in two days. So I’m coming in feeling pretty good about that,” the world’s third-ranked player said jokingly. “I just feel like walking it has been quite an interesting experience. ... I feel like I’ve actually got a clear vision of the golf course.”

Rose explained that by walking the course, and only doing a bit of chipping and putting, he was able to better focus on the setup. He could examine potential pin placements and where to avoid trouble off the tee, rather than letting the technical parts of his swing cloud his thoughts.

“I have the time to look around a little more closely,” he said. “I’m not dictated by where I’ve hit my ball, and then you kind of get concerned with that and those visuals.”

Rose admitted it’s a different way to approach a major championship, but the winner of the 2013 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills has been in enough of those that he knows what to expect. He lost in a playoff to Sergio Garcia at the Masters last year, and twice he’s been top 5 at the PGA.

As for the back, Rose said a joint tightened up last week and that he could have played through it had it been the end of the season.

Djokovic backs turning Davis Cup into Grand Slam duel

TORONTO—Reigning Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic says he is in favor of a bid to turn the Davis Cup tournament into a season-ending Grand Slam-level showdown, as it would ease scheduling woes for the players.

Currently, the Davis Cup is structured around a 16-nation World Group, contested over four weekends during the year. The remaining countries are then divided into three regional zones.

The International Tennis Federation's controversial revamp would see the Davis Cup morph into a World Cup of Tennis final featuring 18 countries—and address complaints that the heavy time commitment drives away the top players.

The proposal must win approval at the federation's annual general meeting in Orlando, Florida later this month.

Djokovic, a Davis Cup champion for Serbia in 2010, gave his thumbs up.

"I think that format needs



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot to Peter Polansky of Canada during the Rogers Cup men's tennis tournament in Toronto, Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018. AP

to be changed. And I'm all in favour of that," Djokovic said after beating Peter Polansky, 6-4, 6-3 to reach the third round of the ATP Toronto

Masters on Wednesday.

"You play one year, and then the next year you don't play. It's just the scheduling of this kind of format so far has

been pretty bad."

The ITF has said the revamp would bring benefits across the tennis world in the form of increased prize money and more

top players taking part.

It would also raise the hosting standards of the Davis Cup to a Grand Slam level, ITF chief David Haggerty told AFP.

Madrid and Lille are "the two leading cities" to host the first edition of the revamped Davis Cup in November 2019, Haggerty said.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal was made to wait before his



MTEC Governor's Tourism Cup set for Sept. 1

MTEC Governor's Tourism Cup Marianas Visitors Authority joins the Marianas Tourism Education Council and My WAVE Clubs as the beneficiaries for the upcoming Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament set for Sept. 1 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres expressed his appreciation to MTEC and MVA for being a critical voice in tourism and educating the youth.

"We are all very excited for this year's tournament and MTEC's advocacy for sustainable tourism development. For 15 years, MTEC has established tourism education and awareness in our schools

and has promoted a generation of advocacy throughout our community. I thank all our participants and sponsors for supporting a great initiative and look forward to an exciting tournament," Torres said.

"We must continue to reinforce the importance of our tourism industry to all, but most especially the generations that follow. It is vital that businesses support MTEC in its mission of developing tourism related programs for our high school students," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente.

Major sponsors DFS T-Galleria, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and the Hyatt Regency Saipan have all stepped forward to support

this year's event. The Bank of Guam, IP&E, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Marianas Variety and the Sorensen Media Group-Power 99 lend their support as classic sponsors.

Hole-in-one sponsors Pacifica Insurance and Triple J Motors have put forth fantastic prizes (cash and cars), while the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI), First Hawaiian Bank, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, MAR-PAC, and the Bank of Saipan have come on board as classic contributors. More sponsors and contributors are expected over the couple of weeks.

"We must continue to support MTEC and the My WAVE Clubs as they have a direct impact on our student

community and the tourism industry," tournament director James Nelson said.

This year's entry fee is \$100 and includes cart and green fees, morning snacks, free flowing on-course refreshments and awards banquet. Participants can also look forward to the nearest to the pin and longest drive competitions, as well as the ever popular hot-dog stand out on the course.

Entry forms are available and payments are accepted at MVA and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Golfers are encouraged to register as soon as possible as slots are filling up fast and only 144 players can be accommodated. Registration deadline is Aug. 29 at 5pm. (PR)

SUZUKI

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Yunsong Liu (1:02.69), Japan's Ippei Watanabe (1:00.35), the U.S.' Joshua Prenot (1:00.22), Australia's Zac Stubblety-Cook (1:00.32), and Canada's Eli Wall (1:01.55). Results of yesterday afternoon's B-Finals race were unavailable at press time.

Besides making it to the B-finals, Suzuki also chopped off more than a minute from his entry time (1:18.93).

In other results in the 100m breaststroke, the U.S.' Andrew Lawrence Wilson ruled Heat 1 and also posted the fastest time among the 16 swimmers that raced in the event after recording 59.42 seconds. China's Lizhuo Wang earned the second best time at 59.50 seconds and he and Wilson were joined in the finals by the U.S.' Michael Andrew (59.55), Japan's Yasuhiro Loseki (59.67), Brazil's Luiz Gomes (59.74), Australia's Jake Packard (59.81) and Matthew Wilson (59.90), and Canada's Richard Funk (1:00.03).

In the men's 200m freestyle, Batallones submitted 2:18.42 on Heat 1, which was won by the Philippines' Jarod Jason Hatch (1:55.99).

The U.S. had a 1-2 finish in the overall ranking in the 200m freestyle with Andrew Seliskar and Townley Haas leading the finals qualifiers after registering 1:45.81 and 1:46.19, respectively, in their heats. The two Americans will race in the medal round against Australia's Alexander Graham (1:46.35) and Clyde Lewis (1:46.54), Brazil's Luiz Melo (1:47.19) and Fernando Scheffer (1:46.63), and Japan's Kat-

suhiro Matsumoto (1:46.42) and Naito Ehara (1:47.67).

Meanwhile, Suzuki and Batallones will have their second event in the 18-nation tournament today with the former seeing action on Heat 1 of the 100m freestyle qualifying races and the latter on Heat 2 of the 200m butterfly preliminaries.

Batallones is grouped with China's Shuchang Zhou, the U.S.' Zachary Scott Harting, Japan's Daiya Seto and Yuya Yajima, Colombia's Jonathan Gomez, and Brazil's Iago Moussalem. Suzuki, on the other hand, will race against fellow islanders Noel Keane of Palau and Mark Imazu of Guam and the U.S.' Seliskar, the Philippines' Rafael Barreto and Armand Pierre Chan, and Oman's Issa Samir Al Adawi.

Joining the two CNMI swim-

mers in the Pan Pac is coach Jacoby Winkfield, who is upbeat on Suzuki and Batallones' performance and experience in the four-day tournament.

"The atmosphere here is electric, so many fast swimmers and every moment is an opportunity to learn and gain some valuable experience. I am excited for Nelson and Len and this opportunity," Winkfield told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The CNMI had a successful first day of swimming. It is a bit unfair that the boys are being thrown into the fire here in Tokyo, with the top swimmers in the world at this meet. They are being forced to learn fast, adapt, observe, and react. Thus far they are doing a great job and representing the CNMI well. Thanks to everyone back home for their support," he added.

SONIC

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28-year-old had four wins each via submission and decision and two off knockouts and got only one draw. The Japanese's latest victory was against Korean Daw Hwan Kim via disqualification (illegal spike) in One Championship: Quest for Gold also held in Myanmar in February this year. Takenaka seems to be fan of rear-naked choke, as he used this technique in his four wins via submission.

Though his foe has a better record, Alvarez's mark (6-2) can't be taken lightly. He won

percent. In the doubles, he and Ken Song made it all the way to the semifinals after shutting down Samoa's Phillip Warren and Guam's Marshall Zang.

"His performance was astounding. He's been training in Fiji since May, twice a day, six times a week and all his hard work paid off," said CNMI Junior National Team head coach Jeff Race during the selection of the July awardees last night at the NMSA meeting.

Meanwhile, Schorr will be playing in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018 in Fiji starting on Tuesday. Siblings Sean and Carol Lee, Conatsu Kaga and Ken Song are the other CNMI players who will compete in the B2 event under the ITF Juniors Circuit.

his first five fights, including three in Pacific Xtreme Combat events, while his last triumph before bowing to Issa was against Guam's Robin Eclavea in Rites of Passage 22: Rampage last year. Incidentally, Alvarez also employed a rear-naked choke on Eclavea to get the victory at the 2:15 mark of Round 2.

Besides the Alvarez-Takenaka bout, nine other fights are lined up in One Championship: Beyond the Horizon, including the main event that features female fighters Xiong Jin Nan of China and Samara Santos of Brazil.

CNMI Boys U16 National Team at Tuloy XO Cup

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Head coach Michiteru Mita gives instructions to members of the CNMI Boys U16 National Team before their game against Luen Thai Soccer School in the Inaugural Tuloy XO Cup last week in the Philippines.



CNMI players huddle before their game against Tuloy.

The CNMI's Thaiphi Austria, second left, and Sebastien Manabat, right, in action against two Malaya Football Club players.



CNMI players bow to thank officials and spectators in their game against Luen Thai Soccer School.



The CNMI's Sebastien Manabat, left, listens to the instructions of one of the game officials.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, left, talks to head coach Michiteru Mita during a break in the Teen Ayayus' game against Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong.



CNMI players do warm-up drills.



Richard Waldo Jr., right, throws the ball, while teammate Kirt Andon looks on during their game against Tuloy.



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Red Sox beat
Blue Jays

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LeBron, Warriors
highlight NBA
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Suzuki drops time, makes finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lennosuke Suzuki, seen here racing in a local event, broke his entry time during the 100m breaststroke event in the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships 2018 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Center yesterday in Tokyo, Japan.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Nelson Batallones and Lennosuke Suzuki debuted in the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships 2018 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tokyo yesterday.



Suzuki was the first to plunge into the pool, as he raced on Heat 1 of the qualifying swims for the 100m breaststroke event yesterday morning and clocked in 1:17.36. The Saipan Swim Club member went on to advance to the B-finals and competed against the Philippines' Timothy Yen (1:07.05), China's Jia Song (1:02.13) and

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'Sonic Boom' returns to One Championship

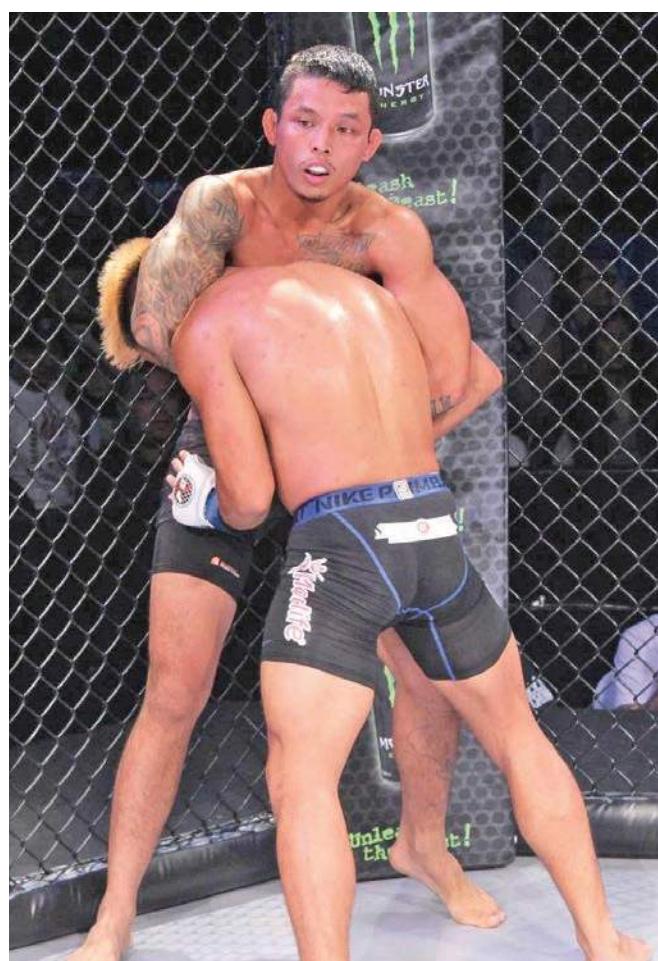
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech and Spike 22's Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez will fight in One Championship anew, as he takes on a Japanese opponent next month.

Alvarez debuted in One Championship: Spirit of a Warrior held last June 29 at the Thuwunna Youth Training Center Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar and knocked out Brazil's Leandro Issa early in the first round before losing the bout. Issa forced Alvarez to submission at the 1:26 mark of the opening round of their bantamweight duel using an arm-triangle choke.

Despite the sorry loss, Alvarez was invited again to participate in another event organized by the Singapore-based mixed martial arts and kickboxing promotion company. He will be competing in One Championship: Beyond the Horizon on Sept. 8 at the Baoshan Sports Center in Shanghai, China and will be up against Japan's Daichi Takenaka.

Alvarez vowed to be a bet-



PACIFIC XTREME COMBAT PHOTO
Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez tries to keep his hold on Mark Abelardo during their bout in Pacific Xtreme Combat 50 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao.



ter and wiser fighter in his second appearance in One Championship.

"I am glad I was able to get another fight so quick. I learned a lot about myself and what I was capable of doing in my last fight. Belief and confidence in yourself are the strongest things you could ever possess. I'm here for a reason and the job will get done," Alvarez said in his fight announcement last Wednesday.

In a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Alvarez said he will not rush things in his bout against Takenaka.

"I will just focus on the task at hand... be patient and let the finish happen. The W will come!" said Alvarez, who is busy training at Spike 22 in Guam.

Alvarez will have a tough opponent in Takenaka, who is unbeaten in 11 matches. The

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Robbie Schoor prepares for a backhand return during last year's TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Schorr earns top athlete honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tennis' Robbie Schorr got the well-deserved Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male Athlete of the Month (for July) award after his title conquest in the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Schorr bagged the boys U16 singles crown in last

month's POJC held in Fiji, stunning opponents that handed him several losses in previous competitions. The Saipan International School student pulled off an upset over No. 2 seed Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu in the semis, 7-6 (5), 6-0, and then swept No. 1 Jeremy Guines of Tahiti in the finals, 6-4, 6-3.

Though he is still savoring the sweet taste of his success in POJC, Schorr is back to work as he remains in Fiji

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